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Information on the characteristics of working women in the United States and changing trends over the past quarter century are presented in this databook. (The primary source of the data is the Current Population Survey, which is conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Bureau of the Census.) Part 1 of the databook provides information on the labor force participation, employment, and unemployment of women between 1950 and 1976. It also presents data on the strength of women's attachment to the labor force as indicated by the number of weeks spent working or looking for work during the year. Part 2 focuses on working women's marital and family status, and part 3 reviews changes in women's education, income, and earnings. Part 4 analyzes data by race and Spanish origin. (Collection of data by Spanish origin was begun in 1973.) Part 5 contains additional information on the job tenure of working women and moonlighting, and part 6 concludes with a glimpse of future worklife expectancy and labor force participation rates. All data, unless otherwise indicated, refer to the civilian noninstitutional population sixteen years of age and over. (TA)

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U.S. Working Women: A Databook

U.S. Department of Labor
Ray Marshall, Secretary
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Julius Shiskin, Commissioner
1977

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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Foreword

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has long provided information about working women in as timely and useful a manner as possible. In 1975, American women joined others from all over the world to celebrate International Women's Year and to proclaim the succeeding years as the Decade for Women. Since then, the need for continuing data has been greatly increased as American women have continued to enter and reenter the labor market in record numbers. Clearly, women are a permanent and important part of the labor force. Their status was featured in the 1975 BLS chartbook, *U.S. Working Women*. Their phenomenal growth in the work force is illustrated in the tables and text of this year's databook. Future developments will be examined each year as part of the Bureau's labor force analysis program.

Preface

This databook presents a wide array of information on the characteristics of working women in the United States and changing trends over the past quarter of a century. The primary source of the data is the Current Population Survey, which is conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Bureau of the Census. Most of this information is published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in a series of Special Labor Force Reports and in the monthly periodicals *Employment and Earnings* and *Monthly Labor Review*.

Part I provides information on the labor force participation, employment, and unemployment of women between 1950 and 1976. It also presents data on the strength of women's attachment to the labor force as indicated by the number of weeks spent working or looking for work during the year. Part II focuses on working women's marital and family status, and Part III reviews changes in women's education, income, and earnings. Part IV analyzes data by race and Spanish origin. (Collection of data by Spanish origin was begun in 1973.) Part V contains additional information on the job tenure of working women and moonlighting, and Part VI concludes with a glimpse of future worklife expectancy and labor force participation rates. All data, unless otherwise indicated, refer to the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. Because of rounding, sums of individual items in the tables may not equal totals.

This databook was prepared in the Division of Labor Force Studies, Office of Current Employment Analysis. It was assembled by Allyson Sherman Grossman and Beverly Johnson under the direction of Elizabeth Waldman. Annice Tyler, Annie Wilder, Mildred Behlin, and Fran Waters provided valuable assistance. The Division of Graphic Services of the U.S. Department of Labor prepared the layout and design.

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Part I.

Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment

By mid-1977, 40 million women were in the labor force—about 41 percent of the country's entire labor force and 49 percent of all women 16 years of age and over.

Following are a few highlights of the data shown in Part I:

- Middle-aged women were largely responsible for the increase in labor force participation between 1950 and 1965. Since 1965, the largest gains have shifted to women under age 35. In fact, a phenomenal increase has been occurring among women 25 to 34 years of age. Their labor force participation rate advanced by 12 percentage points to 57 percent between 1970 and 1976, and reached 59 percent early in 1977. This is a remarkable increase because the majority of women in this age group (64 percent) are married, live with their husbands, and have children at home, factors which traditionally have tended to keep women out of the labor force. Another 10 percent are women who are divorced or separated from their husbands and who also have dependent children at home.

- Significant increases have occurred in the proportion of women employed in professional-technical, service, and clerical jobs. Corresponding declines have occurred in operative and farm occupations. The jobs held by most women are generally in the same fields in which women were employed 10 and 25 years ago, but women have made substantial inroads in a few specific occupations. For example, in 1950, 15 percent of all accountants were women; in 1976, 27 percent were women. Among lawyers and judges, the proportion of women rose from 4 to 9 percent; among doctors, from 7 to 13 percent; and among bank officials and financial managers, from 12 to 25 percent.

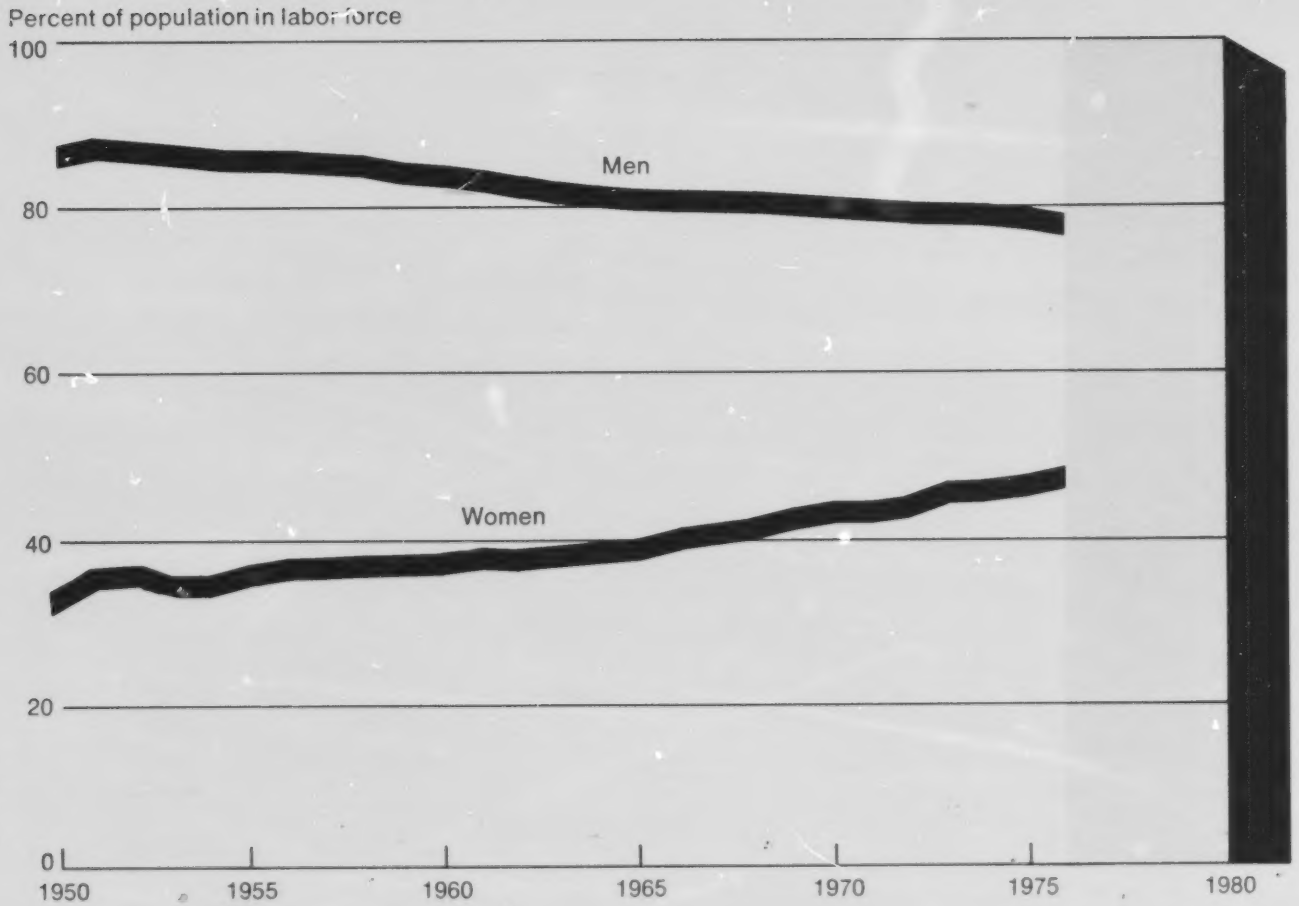
- Women have become a larger proportion of the unemployed over the past few decades. Unemployed women are more likely than men to be entering or reentering the labor force and are less likely to have lost their last job.

- Women constitute about three-fourths of the population outside of the labor force. Most of these women do not want jobs, but their reasons are markedly different from those of men who are not looking for jobs. The majority of women give keeping house as their reason while most men give retirement, school attendance, or illness or disability as their main reason.

- In 1975, 42.9 million women had worked at some time during the year. They constituted over half (53 percent) of all women 16 years of age and over, a proportion that varied a great deal by age, marital status, and presence and age of children. Among these working women, 17.8 million had worked 50 weeks or more at full-time jobs.

Chart 1.

Labor force participation rates of women and men, annual averages, 1950-76



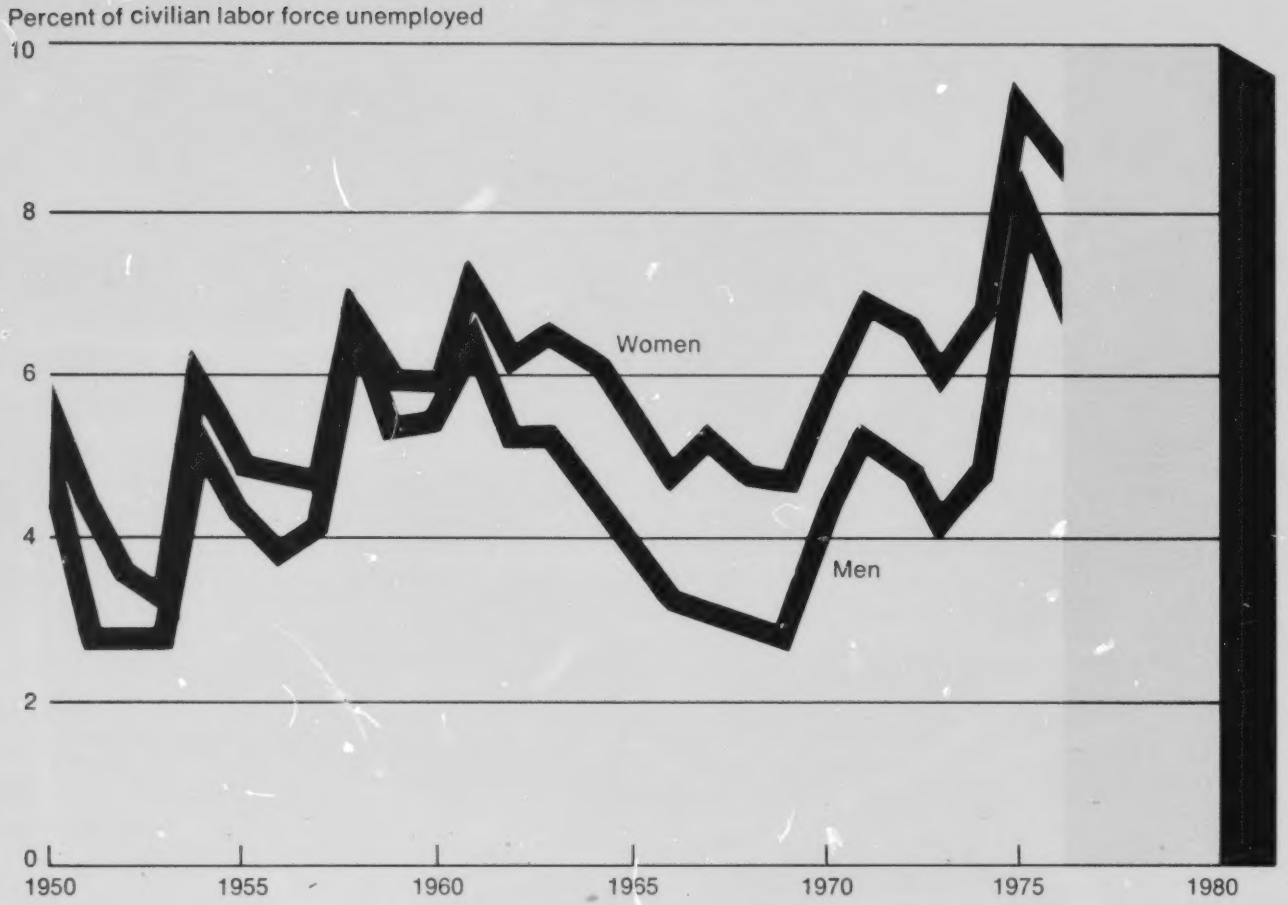


Chart 2.

Unemployment rates of women and men, annual averages, 1950-76

Table 1
Women in the labor force, annual averages, selected years, 1950-76

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Labor force		
	Total, both sexes	Women	
		Number	Percent of total
1950	62,208	18,389	29.6
1955	65,023	20,584	31.6
1960	69,628	23,240	33.4
1965	74,455	26,200	35.2
1970	82,715	31,520	38.1
1975	92,613	36,998	39.9
1976	94,773	38,414	40.5

Table 2
Labor force participation of women by age, annual averages, selected years, 1950-76

	Percent of population in labor force			
	1950	1960	1970	1976
Total, 16 years and over	33.9	37.7	43.3	47.3
16 and 17	30.1	29.1	34.9	40.7
18 and 19	51.3	50.9	53.6	59.0
20 to 24	46.0	46.1	57.7	65.0
25 to 34	34.0	36.0	45.0	57.1
35 to 44	39.1	43.4	51.1	57.8
45 to 54	37.9	49.8	54.4	55.0
55 to 64	27.0	37.2	43.0	41.1
65 and over	9.0	10.8	9.7	8.2

Table 3
Labor force participation rates of women and men, annual averages, 1950-76

Year	Percent of population in labor force	
	Women	Men
1950	33.9	86.4
1951	34.6	86.5
1952	34.7	86.3
1953	34.4	86.0
1954	34.6	85.5
1955	35.7	85.3
1956	36.9	85.5
1957	36.9	84.8
1958	37.1	84.2
1959	37.1	83.7
1960	37.7	83.3
1961	38.1	82.9
1962	37.9	82.0
1963	38.3	81.4
1964	38.7	81.0
1965	39.3	80.7
1966	40.3	80.4
1967	41.1	80.4
1968	41.6	80.1
1969	42.7	79.8
1970	43.3	79.7
1971	43.3	79.1
1972	43.9	79.0
1973	44.7	78.8
1974	45.6	78.7
1975	46.3	77.9
1976	47.3	77.5

Table 4

Labor force participation rates[1] of women 20 years and over by year of birth and age, annual averages, selected years, 1955-76

Year of birth	1955		1960		1965		1970		1975		1976	
	Age	Rate	Age	Rate	Age	Rate	Age	Rate	Age	Rate	Age	Rate
1951-55									20-24	64.1	20-24	65.0
1946-50							20-24	57.8	25-29	57.0	25-29	59.2
1941-45					20-24	50.0	25-29	45.2	30-34	51.7	30-34	54.6
1936-40			20-24	46.2	25-29	38.9	30-34	44.7	35-39	54.9	35-39	57.2
1931-35	20-24	46.0	25-29	35.7	30-34	38.2	35-39	49.2	40-44	56.8	40-44	58.5
1926-30	25-29	35.3	30-34	36.3	35-39	43.6	40-44	52.9	45-49	55.9	45-49	57.0
1921-25	30-34	34.7	35-39	40.8	40-44	48.5	45-49	55.0	50-54	53.3	50-54	53.1
1916-20	35-39	39.2	40-44	46.8	45-49	51.7	50-54	53.8	55-59	47.9	55-59	48.1
1911-15	40-44	44.1	45-49	50.7	50-54	50.1	55-59	49.0	60-64	33.3	60-64	33.1
1906-10	45-49	45.9	50-54	48.8	55-59	47.1	60-64	36.1	65-69	14.5	65-69	14.9
1901-05	50-54	41.5	55-59	42.2	60-64	34.0	65-69	17.3	70 and over	4.8	70 and over	4.6
1896-1901	55-59	35.6	60-64	31.4	65-69	17.4	70 and over	5.7				
Before 1895	60-64	29.0	65-69	17.6	70 and over	6.1						
	65-69	17.8	70 and over	6.8								
	70 and over	6.4										

[1] Percent of population in labor force.

Table 5
Women employees on nonagricultural payrolls, selected industries, January 1964 and January 1976

Industry	Number of women (thousands)		Women as percent of total employed	
	1964	1976	1964	1976
Total, nonagricultural industries	19,036	30,711	34	40
Private	15,421	24,025	33	38
Mining	34	236	6	7
Construction	143	224	6	7
Manufacturing	4,385	5,383	26	29
Durable goods	1,717	2,327	18	22
Nondurable goods	2,668	3,056	37	39
Transportation and public utilities	706	981	18	22
Communications	410	523	50	45
Wholesale and retail trade	4,404	7,182	37	42
Wholesale trade	686	1,018	22	24
Retail trade	3,718	6,164	43	47
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1,445	2,320	50	55
Services	4,304	7,868	51	56
Personal	553	519	60	63
Miscellaneous business services	333	746	34	37
Medical and other health	1,474	3,453	78	80
Educational	398	640	44	51
Government	3,675	6,686	39	45
Federal	520	801	22	29
State	692	1,417	38	44
State education	245	594	40	44
Other State government	448	823	37	45
Local	2,463	4,468	46	50
Local education	1,831	3,133	63	62
Other local government	633	1,335	26	34

NOTE: Because some industries are not included in this table, subgroups do not always add to total for major industry division.

Table 6

Employed and unemployed women, annual averages, 1950-76

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Employed			Unemployed		
	Total, both sexes	Women		Total, both sexes	Women	
		Number	Percent of total employed		Number	Percent of total unemployed
1950	58,918	17,340	29.4	3,288	1,049	31.9
1951	59,961	18,181	30.3	2,055	834	40.6
1952	60,250	18,568	30.8	1,883	698	37.1
1953	61,179	18,749	30.6	1,834	632	34.5
1954	60,109	18,490	30.8	3,532	1,188	33.6
1955	62,170	19,551	31.4	2,852	998	35.0
1956	63,799	20,419	32.0	2,750	1,039	37.8
1957	64,071	20,714	32.3	2,859	1,018	35.6
1958	63,036	20,613	32.7	4,602	1,504	32.7
1959	64,630	21,164	32.7	3,740	1,320	35.3
1960	65,778	21,874	33.3	3,852	1,366	35.5
1961	65,746	22,090	33.6	4,714	1,717	36.4
1962	66,702	22,525	33.8	3,911	1,488	38.0
1963	67,762	23,105	34.1	4,070	1,598	39.3
1964	69,305	23,831	34.4	3,786	1,581	41.8
1965	71,088	24,748	34.8	3,366	1,452	43.1
1966	72,895	25,976	35.6	2,875	1,324	46.1
1967	74,372	26,892	36.2	2,975	1,468	49.3
1968	75,920	27,807	36.6	2,817	1,397	49.6
1969	77,902	29,084	37.3	2,831	1,428	50.4
1970	78,627	29,667	37.7	4,088	1,853	45.3
1971	79,120	29,875	37.8	4,993	2,217	44.4
1972	81,702	31,072	38.0	4,840	2,205	45.6
1973	84,409	32,446	38.4	4,304	2,064	48.0
1974	85,936	33,417	38.9	5,076	2,408	47.4
1975	84,783	33,553	39.6	7,830	3,445	44.0
1976	87,485	35,095	40.1	7,288	3,320	45.6

Table 7

Occupational distribution of employed women, annual averages, selected years, 1950-76

(Percent distribution)

Occupation group	1950[1]	1960	1970	1976	Women as percent of all workers in occupation group, 1976
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	40.1
Professional-technical	12.5	12.4	14.5	16.0	42.0
Managerial-administrative, except farm	4.4	5.0	4.5	5.5	20.8
Sales	8.7	7.7	7.0	6.7	42.9
Clerical	27.8	30.3	34.5	34.9	78.7
Craft	1.5	1.0	1.1	1.6	4.8
Operatives, including transport	19.6	15.2	14.5	11.8	31.3
Nonfarm laborers	0.8	0.4	0.5	1.1	9.3
Service, except private household	12.4	14.8	16.5	17.9	57.8
Private household	8.7	8.9	5.1	3.1	97.3
Farm	3.6	4.4	1.8	1.3	16.2

[1] Data are for women 14 years and over in April 1950.

Table 8
Employment of women in selected occupations, 1950, 1970, and 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation	Both sexes			Women					
				Number			Percent of all workers in occupation		
	1950	1970	1976	1950	1970	1976	1950	1970	1976
Professional-technical	4,858	11,452	13,329	1,947	4,576	5,603	40.1	40.0	42.0
Accountants	377	711	866	56	180	233	14.9	25.3	26.9
Engineers	518	1,233	1,190	6	20	21	1.2	1.6	1.8
Lawyers-judges	171	277	413	7	13	38	4.1	4.7	9.2
Physicians-osteopaths	184	280	368	12	25	47	6.5	8.9	12.8
Registered nurses	403	836	999	394	814	965	97.8	97.4	96.6
Teachers, except college and university	1,123	2,750	3,099	837	1,937	2,198	74.5	70.4	70.9
Teachers, college and university[1]	123	492	537	28	139	168	22.8	28.3	31.3
Technicians, excluding medical-dental	102	339	897	21	49	122	20.6	14.5	13.6
Writers-artists-entertainers	124	761	1,099	50	229	381	40.3	30.1	34.7
Managerial-administrative, except farm	4,894	6,387	9,315	673	1,061	1,942	13.8	16.6	20.8
Bank officials-financial managers	111	313	546	13	55	135	11.7	17.6	24.7
Buyers-purchasing agents	64	361	376	6	75	89	9.4	20.8	23.7
Food service workers	343	323	505	93	109	177	27.1	33.7	35.0
Sales managers-department heads, retail trade	142	212	322	35	51	114	24.6	24.1	35.4
Clerical	6,865	13,783	15,558	4,273	10,150	12,245	62.2	73.6	78.7
Bank tellers	62	251	371	28	216	338	45.2	86.1	91.1
Bookkeepers	716	1,552	1,688	556	1,274	1,519	77.7	82.1	90.0
Cashiers	230	824	1,256	187	692	1,101	81.3	84.0	87.7
Office machine operators	143	563	726	116	414	535	81.1	73.5	73.7
Secretaries-typists	1,580	3,814	4,368	1,494	3,686	4,303	94.6	96.6	98.5
Shipping-receiving clerks	287	413	440	19	59	76	6.6	14.3	17.3

[1] Includes college and university presidents.

Table 9
Unemployment rates of women and men, annual averages, 1950-76

Year	Percent of labor force unemployed			Ratio of women's unemployment rates to men's
	Both sexes	Women	Men	
1950	5.3	5.7	5.1	1.1
1951	3.3	4.4	2.8	1.6
1952	3.0	3.6	2.8	1.3
1953	2.9	3.3	2.8	1.2
1954	5.5	6.0	5.3	1.1
1955	4.4	4.9	4.2	1.2
1956	4.1	4.8	3.8	1.3
1957	4.3	4.7	4.1	1.1
1958	6.8	6.8	6.8	1.0
1959	5.5	5.9	5.3	1.1
1960	5.5	5.9	5.4	1.1
1961	6.7	7.2	6.4	1.1
1962	5.5	6.2	5.2	1.2
1963	5.7	6.5	5.2	1.3
1964	5.2	6.2	4.6	1.3
1965	4.5	5.5	4.0	1.4
1966	3.8	4.8	3.2	1.5
1967	3.8	5.2	3.1	1.7
1968	3.6	4.8	2.9	1.7
1969	3.5	4.7	2.8	1.7
1970	4.9	5.9	4.4	1.3
1971	5.9	6.9	5.3	1.3
1972	5.6	6.6	4.9	1.3
1973	4.9	6.0	4.1	1.5
1974	5.6	6.7	4.8	1.4
1975	8.5	9.3	7.9	1.2
1976	7.7	8.6	7.0	1.2

Table 10
Unemployed women and men by age, annual averages, selected years, 1950-76

Sex and age	Number (thousands)				Percent distribution			
	1950	1960	1970	1976	1950	1960	1970	1976
Both sexes, 16 years and over	3,288	3,852	4,088	7,288	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Women, 16 years and over	1,049	1,366	1,853	3,320	31.9	35.5	45.3	45.6
16 to 19	195	286	506	773	5.9	7.4	12.4	10.6
20 to 24	184	214	386	746	5.6	5.6	9.4	10.2
25 and over	670	864	961	1,800	20.4	22.4	23.5	24.7
Men, 16 years and over	2,239	2,486	2,235	3,968	68.1	64.5	54.7	54.4
16 to 19	318	425	599	928	9.7	11.0	14.7	12.7
20 to 24	377	369	478	924	11.5	9.6	11.7	12.7
25 and over	1,545	1,689	1,158	2,117	47.0	43.8	28.3	29.0

Table 11
Unemployed women and men by reason for unemployment, annual averages, 1976

Reason	Number (thousands)		Percent distribution	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Total unemployed	3,320	3,968	100.0	100.0
Lost last job	1,235	2,389	37.2	60.2
Left last job	493	393	14.8	9.9
Reentered labor force	1,128	768	34.0	19.4
Looking for first job	464	418	14.0	10.5

Table 12
Women and men not in the labor force by desire for job and reason for nonparticipation, annual averages, 1970 and 1976

Item	1970		1976	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Total not in labor force (thousands)	41,210	13,065	42,784	16,341
Do not want a job now (thousands)	38,535	11,863	39,236	14,745
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ill or disabled	4.7	17.2	5.4	17.6
Home responsibilities	82.9	1.7	77.8	1.5
Going to school	7.8	25.8	8.1	21.7
Retired	1.8	44.0	4.5	46.2
Other reasons	2.7	11.3	4.1	13.0
Want a job now (thousands)	2,675	1,200	3,548	1,596
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ill or disabled	10.5	17.3	10.4	17.5
Home responsibilities	33.9	—	16.6	—
Going to school	19.1	46.9	20.3	45.2
Think cannot find job	15.6	18.4	33.0	20.1
Other reasons	20.9	17.3	19.7	17.1

Table 13
Percent of population who worked at some time during year by sex and age, selected years, 1960-75

Sex and age	1960	1965	1970	1975
WOMEN				
Total, 16 years and over	48.0	48.8	52.5	53.0
16 and 17	45.1	43.7	45.5	46.0
18 and 19	66.8	64.9	71.0	70.1
20 to 24	62.1	66.5	73.0	73.6
25 to 34	47.4	50.1	56.5	63.9
35 to 44	53.7	54.6	58.5	62.4
45 to 54	58.0	57.9	60.4	59.0
55 to 59	50.9	53.1	54.7	52.3
60 to 64	39.9	42.5	47.2	40.8
65 to 69	25.6	22.9	24.8	21.0
70 and over	10.2	9.4	9.3	6.3
MEN				
Total, 16 years and over	87.1	84.9	84.1	80.7
16 and 17	62.7	61.2	60.4	54.1
18 and 19	84.1	85.5	82.6	80.2
20 to 24	92.9	92.4	88.9	88.9
25 to 34	98.1	98.0	97.0	95.6
35 to 44	97.9	97.8	97.5	95.6
45 to 54	96.6	96.0	95.6	91.9
55 to 59	93.4	91.7	91.7	85.8
60 to 64	85.1	84.1	83.2	73.4
65 to 69	58.4	55.1	54.1	41.9
70 and over	33.4	23.2	24.5	19.2

Table 14
Work experience of women and men in 1975

Work experience	Women	Men
Population (thousands)	80,834	72,346
Persons who worked or looked for work during 1975:		
Number (thousands)	44,778	59,664
Percent of population	55.4	82.5
Persons who worked:		
Number (thousands)	42,881	58,359
Percent	100.0	100.0
Worked at full-time jobs:		
50 to 52 weeks	41.4	63.9
27 to 49 weeks	12.2	13.3
1 to 26 weeks	13.5	10.3
Worked at part-time jobs:		
50 to 52 weeks	11.8	4.4
27 to 49 weeks	8.3	3.0
1 to 26 weeks	12.8	5.1

Table 15
Percent of employed women in each occupation group with year-round full-time jobs in 1975

Occupation group	Percent who worked year round, full time
All occupations	41.4
Professional-technical	52.0
Managerial-administrative, except farm	64.5
Sales	25.8
Clerical	49.6
Craft	43.1
Operatives, except transport	38.7
Transport equipment operatives	17.4
Nonfarm laborers	32.7
Service, except private household	26.5
Private household	13.1
Farm	25.3

Table 16
Women by work experience and reason for less than full-year work in 1975

Item	Number (thousands)	Percent distribution
Total, 16 years and over	80,834	100.0
Worked all year (50 to 52 weeks)	22,788	28.2
Worked part year (1 to 49 weeks)	20,093	24.9
Did not work at all	37,953	47.0
Looked for work during 1975	1,897	2.3
Did not look for work during 1975	36,056	44.6
Worked part year	20,093	100.0
Ill or disabled	1,318	6.6
Home responsibilities	8,591	42.8
Going to school	4,218	21.0
Unemployed[1]	4,574	22.8
Retired	231	1.1
Other reasons	1,161	5.8
Did not work:		
Looked for work	1,897	100.0
Ill or disabled	74	3.9
Home responsibilities	620	32.7
Going to school	245	12.9
Unable to find work	918	48.4
Other reasons	40	2.1
Did not look for work	36,056	100.0
Ill or disabled	4,192	11.6
Home responsibilities	25,137	69.7
Going to school	3,192	8.9
Think cannot find a job	114	0.3
Retired	3,173	8.8
Other reasons	248	0.7

[1] A total of 7,274 part-year women workers experienced some unemployment during the year, of whom 4,574 reported unemployment as the major reason for part-year work.

Table 17
Women with unemployment in 1975 by number of weeks unemployed

Duration of unemployment	Number (thousands)	Percent distribution
Total working or looking for work	44,778	100.0
With no unemployment during year	35,607	79.5
With unemployment during year	9,171	20.5
Total unemployed	9,171	100.0
Year-round workers unemployed 1 or 2 weeks	266	2.9
Part-year workers unemployed:		
1 to 4 weeks	1,973	21.5
5 to 14 weeks	2,242	24.4
15 to 26 weeks	1,441	15.7
27 weeks or longer	1,352	14.7
Did not work but looked for work:		
1 to 4 weeks	731	8.0
5 to 14 weeks	435	4.7
15 to 26 weeks	201	2.2
27 weeks or longer	530	5.8

Part II.

Marital and Family Status

The marital status of women has changed significantly over the past quarter of a century. Between 1950 and 1976, the proportion of married women in the female population dropped from 65 to 59 percent, while their proportion in the female labor force rose from 49 to 57 percent. The number of married women in the labor force nearly tripled, reaching 21.6 million in 1976. In recent years, the number of single (never married) women in the labor force also has increased rapidly, more than doubling since 1950. In addition, young persons in the 1970's are remaining single longer than in previous decades. The proportions of working women who are separated or divorced, although comparatively small, are on the rise.

Following are some other highlights of the data in Part II:

- The great majority of employed women—3 out of 4, on average—work full time, that is, they usually work 35 hours or more per week. The proportion working full time varies by marital and family status, but it is high even for married women with children under the age of 3—66 percent of these women worked full time in 1976.

- Nearly half (46 percent) of the children under age 18 had mothers in the labor force in 1976, up from 39 percent in 1970. Over this period, the number of children in the population dropped by 6 percent to 61.7 million, but the number of children whose mothers worked or looked for work rose by 10 percent to 28.2 million. The mothers of 6.4 million children under age 6 were in the labor force in 1976.

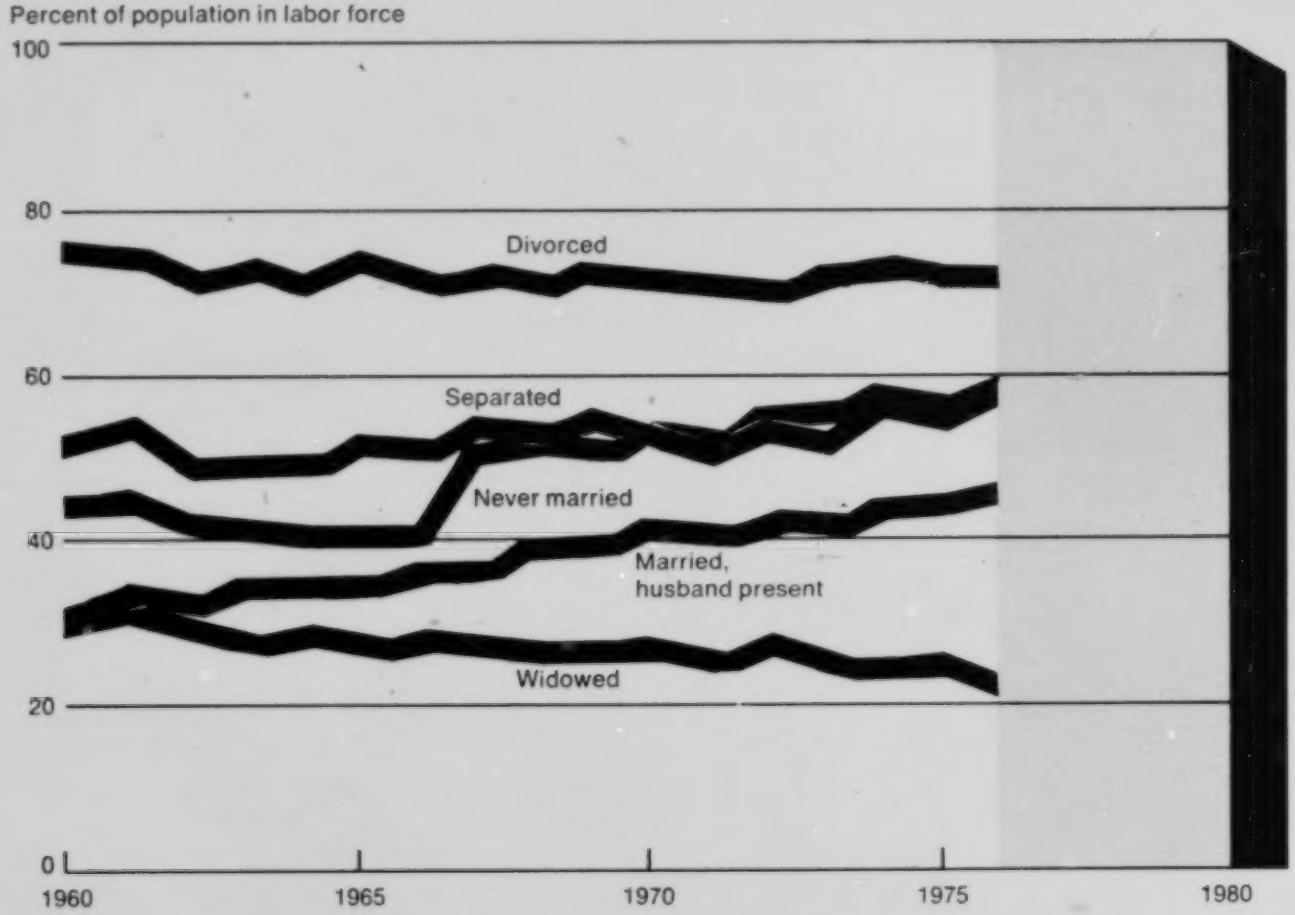
- Of the children in ages 3 to 13 whose mothers were in the labor force, more than 3 out of 5 were cared for by a parent when they were not in school.

- In 1976, both the birth rate (births per 1,000 population) and the fertility rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years) were the lowest ever recorded in the United States.

- Women who head families are more likely to be in the labor force than wives living with their husbands. This is especially true for divorced women, of whom 3 of every 4, on average, were working or looking for work in 1976.

Chart 3.

Labor force participation rates of women by marital status, March 1960 to March 1976



NOTE: Before 1967, data are for women 14 years and over; for 1967 and later years, data are for women 16 years and over.

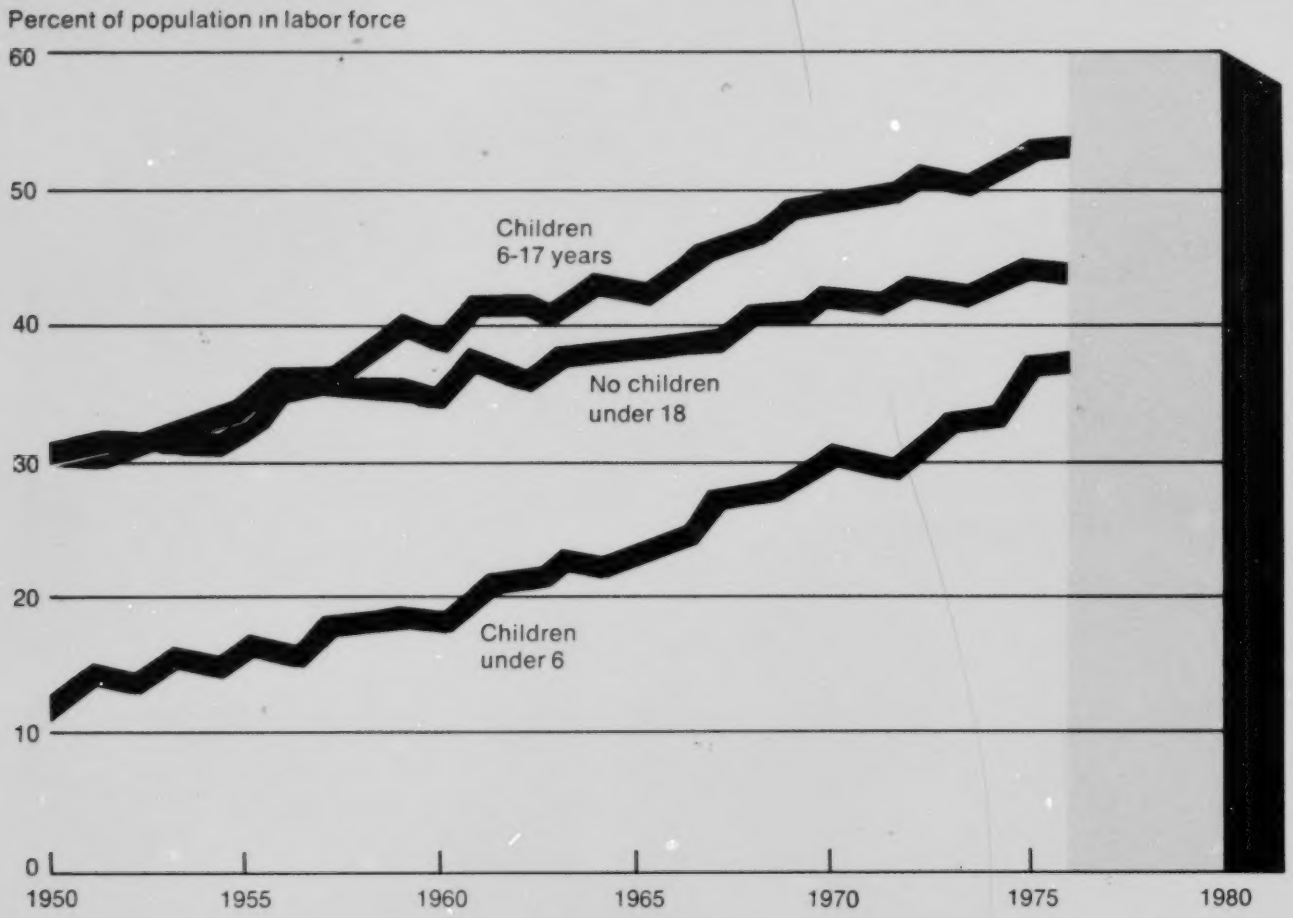


Chart 4.

Labor force participation rates of married women, husband present, by presence and age of own children, 1950-76

Table 18
Women by labor force and marital status, selected years, 1950-76

Item	April 1950	March 1960	March 1970	March 1976
POPULATION				
Number (thousands)				
Total, 16 years and over	54,988	61,911	73,261	80,834
Never married	9,305	9,603	13,141	15,409
Married, husband present	35,574	40,176	45,055	47,852
Married, husband absent	2,001	2,362	2,730	3,145
Divorced	1,373	1,707	2,695	4,408
Widowed	6,735	8,063	9,640	10,020
Percent distribution				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Never married	16.9	15.5	17.9	19.1
Married, husband present	64.7	64.9	61.5	59.2
Married, husband absent	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.9
Divorced	2.5	2.8	3.7	5.5
Widowed	12.2	13.0	13.2	12.4
LABOR FORCE				
Number (thousands)				
Total	15,560	21,329	31,233	37,817
Never married	4,304	4,233	6,965	9,083
Married, husband present	7,682	12,244	18,377	21,554
Married, husband absent	933	1,224	1,422	1,801
Divorced	2,641	1,222	1,927	3,146
Widowed		2,406	2,542	2,233
Percent distribution				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Never married	27.7	19.8	22.3	24.3
Married, husband present	49.4	57.4	58.8	57.0
Married, husband absent	6.0	5.7	4.6	4.8
Divorced	17.0	5.7	6.2	8.3
Widowed		11.3	8.1	5.9
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE[1]				
Total	28.3	34.5	42.6	46.8
Never married	46.3	44.1	53.0	58.9
Married, husband present	21.6	30.5	40.8	45.0
Married, husband absent	46.6	51.8	52.1	57.3
Divorced	32.6	71.6	71.5	71.4
Widowed		29.8	26.4	22.3

[1]Percent of population in labor force

Table 19
Women by marital and labor force status and presence and age of own children, March 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Item	Total	With no children under 18 years	With children under 18 years				
			Total	14 to 17 years, none younger	6 to 13 years, none younger	3 to 5 years, none younger	Under 3 years
Total, 16 years and over	80,834	50,265	30,568	4,831	11,787	6,170	7,781
In labor force	37,817	22,923	14,895	2,767	6,571	2,926	2,631
Labor force participation rate	46.8	45.6	48.7	57.3	55.7	47.4	33.8
Unemployment rate	8.5	8.3	8.8	5.2	7.1	10.2	15.4
Never married, total	15,409	14,756	653	29	155	180	290
In labor force	9,083	8,786	297	18	81	99	99
Labor force participation rate	58.9	59.5	45.4	([1])	52.4	55.1	34.1
Unemployment rate	11.7	11.4	20.0	([1])	11.3	22.3	25.9
Married, husband present, total	47,852	22,490	25,361	3,984	9,559	5,044	6,774
In labor force	21,554	9,860	11,693	2,194	5,076	2,227	2,197
Labor force participation rate	45.0	43.8	46.1	55.1	53.1	44.1	32.4
Unemployment rate	7.1	6.2	7.9	4.7	6.4	8.7	13.8
Married, husband absent, total	3,145	1,410	1,735	198	664	412	461
In labor force	1,801	821	980	119	408	248	205
Labor force participation rate	57.3	58.2	56.5	60.2	61.5	60.1	44.3
Unemployment rate	13.7	9 7	17.1	11.3	13.6	19.1	25.3
Divorced, total	4,408	2,294	2,114	331	1,086	479	218
In labor force	3,146	1,576	1,571	272	852	329	117
Labor force participation rate	71.4	68.7	74.3	82.2	78.5	68.7	53.8
Unemployment rate	7.5	6.8	8.1	3.4	7.6	10.1	17.9
Widowed, total	10,020	9,315	705	289	323	55	38
In labor force	2,233	1,880	354	164	154	23	13
Labor force participation rate	22.3	20.2	50.2	56.6	47.6	([1])	([1])
Unemployment rate	6.1	5.5	9.5	9.4	8.6	([1])	([1])

[1] Rate not shown where base is less than 75,000.

Labor force participation rate equals percent of population in labor force.
Unemployment rate equals percent of labor force unemployed.

NOTE: Children are defined as "own" children of the family head and include never-married sons and daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Excluded are other related children such as grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins, and unrelated children.

Table 20
Employed women, full or part time, by marital status and presence and age of own children, March 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Item	Total	With no children under 18 years	With children under 18 years				
			Total	14 to 17 years, none younger	6 to 13 years, none younger	3 to 5 years, none younger	Under 3 years
Total, employed women 16 years and over	34,609	21,027	13,582	2,623	6,105	2,628	2,227
Worked full time	24,563	15,172	9,391	1,859	4,221	1,803	1,509
Worked part time	10,046	5,854	4,191	764	1,884	825	718
Never married, total	8,024	7,787	237	15	72	77	73
Worked full time	5,132	4,947	185	9	66	52	58
Worked part time	2,892	2,839	52	6	6	25	15
Married, husband present, total	20,023	9,523	10,770	2,091	4,751	2,034	1,894
Worked full time	14,241	7,162	7,079	1,422	3,092	1,323	1,241
Worked part time	5,783	2,091	3,692	669	1,659	711	652
Married, husband absent, total	1,553	742	812	106	353	200	153
Worked full time	1,253	598	655	89	287	154	126
Worked part time	300	144	156	17	66	46	27
Divorced, total	2,912	1,469	1,443	263	788	296	96
Worked full time	2,517	1,273	1,244	237	671	260	76
Worked part time	395	196	199	26	116	36	20
Widowed, total	2,097	1,776	320	148	141	20	11
Worked full time	1,421	1,192	229	102	104	14	8
Worked part time	676	584	92	46	36	7	3

NOTE: Children are defined as "own" children of the family head and include never-married sons and daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Excluded are other related children as grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins, and unrelated children.

Full-time workers are those who usually work 35 or more hours per week; part-time workers are those who usually work 1 to 34 hours per week.

Table 21

Labor force participation rates of women by age and marital status, March 1976

Age	Percent of population in labor force					
	All women	Never married	Married, husband present	Married, husband absent	Divorced	Widowed
Total, 16 years and over	46.8	58.9	45.0	57.3	71.4	22.3
16 to 19	46.2	46.1	44.8	55.1	59.2	(1)
20 to 24	63.5	72.6	55.3	59.4	72.3	(1)
25 to 34	56.8	84.5	49.8	65.6	78.2	51.0
35 to 44	58.1	76.4	54.3	62.1	78.8	64.1
45 to 54	54.4	76.7	50.1	59.6	76.9	61.8
55 to 64	41.9	64.5	36.4	52.1	67.8	46.3
65 and over	8.5	16.7	7.2	13.0	19.2	7.7

[1]Rate not shown where base is less than 75,000.

Table 22

Labor force participation rates of married women, husband present, by presence and age of own children, 1950-76

Year[1]	Percent of population in labor force			
	With no children under 18	With children under 18 years		
		Total	6 to 17 years, none younger	Under 6 years
1950	30.3	18.4	28.3	11.9
1951	31.0	20.5	30.3	14.0
1952	30.9	20.7	31.1	13.9
1953	31.2	22.4	32.2	15.5
1954	31.6	22.7	33.2	14.9
1955	32.7	24.0	34.7	16.2
1956	35.3	24.5	36.4	15.9
1957	35.6	25.3	36.6	17.0
1958	35.4	26.5	37.6	18.2
1959	35.2	27.9	39.8	18.7
1960	34.7	27.6	39.0	18.6
1961	37.3	29.6	41.7	20.0
1962	36.1	30.3	41.8	21.3
1963	37.4	31.2	41.5	22.5
1964	37.8	32.0	43.0	22.7
1965	38.3	32.2	42.7	23.3
1966	38.4	33.2	43.7	24.2
1967	38.9	35.3	45.0	26.5
1968	40.1	36.9	46.9	27.6
1969	41.9	38.6	48.6	28.5
1970	42.2	39.7	49.2	30.3
1971	42.1	39.7	49.4	29.6
1972	42.7	40.5	50.2	30.1
1973	42.8	41.7	50.1	32.7
1974	43.0	43.1	51.2	34.4
1975	43.9	44.9	52.3	36.6
1976	43.8	46.1	53.7	37.4

[1]Data were collected in April of 1951-55 and March of all other years.

NOTE: For definition of children, see note to table 23.

Table 23
Number of own children by age of children, type of family, and labor force status of mother, March 1970, March 1975, and March 1976

(In thousands)

Item	Children under 18 years			Children 6 to 17 years			Children under 6 years		
	1970	1975[1]	1976	1970	1975[1]	1976	1970	1975[1]	1976
Total children	65,755	62,770	61,697	46,149	44,636	44,058	19,606	18,134	17,639
Mother in labor force	25,554	27,650	28,159	19,954	21,138	21,720	5,590	6,512	6,439
Mother not in labor force	39,550	34,332	32,828	25,627	22,800	21,708	13,923	11,532	11,120
Children in husband-wife families	58,399	52,813	51,586	40,479	37,081	36,255	17,920	15,732	15,332
Mother in labor force	21,982	22,637	22,868	17,035	17,206	17,488	4,947	5,431	5,380
Mother not in labor force	36,417	30,176	28,718	23,444	19,875	18,767	12,973	10,302	9,952
Children in families headed by women[2]	6,695	9,168	9,401	5,102	6,856	7,173	1,593	2,312	2,227
Mother in labor force	3,562	5,013	5,291	2,919	3,931	4,232	643	1,081	1,059
Mother not in labor force	3,133	4,155	4,110	2,183	2,925	2,942	950	1,230	1,168
Children in families headed by men[2]	661	788	710	568	699	630	93	90	80

[1] Data for March 1975 have been revised since their initial publication.
[2] Widowed; divorced; married, spouse absent; and never-married family heads.

NOTE: Children are defined as "own" children of the family head and include never-married sons and daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Excluded are other related children such as grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins, and unrelated children.

Table 24
Number of own children by age of children, type of family, and employment status of parents, March 1976

(In thousands)

Item	Children under 18 years				
	Total	Children 6 to 17 years			Under 6 years
		Total	14 to 17 years	6 to 13 years	
ALL CHILDREN					
Total	61,697	44,058	15,680	28,378	17,639
Mother in labor force	28,159	21,720	8,262	13,458	6,439
Employed	25,628	20,035	7,724	12,311	5,593
Unemployed	2,531	1,685	538	1,147	846
Mother not in labor force	32,828	21,708	7,071	14,637	11,120
CHILDREN IN HUSBAND-WIFE FAMILIES					
Total	51,586	36,255	12,865	23,389	15,332
Mother in labor force	22,868	17,488	6,769	10,719	5,380
Employed	21,049	16,303	6,387	9,916	4,746
Unemployed	1,819	1,185	383	802	634
Mother not in labor force	28,718	18,767	6,096	12,670	9,952
Father employed	45,576	32,156	11,403	20,753	13,419
Mother in labor force	20,412	15,676	6,066	9,590	4,736
Employed	18,956	14,726	5,783	8,943	4,230
Unemployed	1,457	950	303	647	507
Mother not in labor force	25,163	16,481	5,317	11,164	8,683
Father in Armed Forces	1,092	599	152	447	493
Mother in labor force	429	285	76	209	144
Employed	378	265	73	192	113
Unemployed	51	20	3	17	30
Mother not in labor force	663	314	75	238	349
CHILDREN IN HUSBAND-WIFE FAMILIES Continued					
Father unemployed	2,486	1,544	455	1,090	942
Mother in labor force	1,133	764	228	536	369
Employed	902	621	181	439	281
Unemployed	231	143	47	96	88
Mother not in labor force	1,353	781	227	554	573
Father not in labor force	2,433	1,955	856	1,099	478
Mother in labor force	894	763	379	384	130
Employed	813	692	350	342	121
Unemployed	81	71	29	42	10
Mother not in labor force	1,539	1,192	477	714	347
CHILDREN IN OTHER FAMILIES					
In families headed by women[1]	9,401	7,173	2,468	4,706	2,227
Mother in labor force	5,291	4,232	1,493	2,739	1,059
Employed	4,579	3,732	1,338	2,394	847
Unemployed	712	500	155	345	212
Mother not in labor force	4,110	2,942	975	1,967	1,168
In families headed by men[1]	710	630	347	283	80

[1] Widowed, divorced, married, spouse absent, and never-married family heads.

NOTE: Children are defined as "own" children of the family head and include never-married sons and daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Excluded are other related children such as grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins, and unrelated children.

Table 25
Arrangements made for daytime care of children 3 to 13 years old by age of children and labor force status of mother, October 1974 and February 1975[1]

(Percent distribution)

Item	Total	Care in own home				Care in someone else's home		Day care center	Other
		Child's parent	Child cares for self	Other relative	Nonrelative	Relative	Nonrelative		
Total children 3 to 13 years[2]	100.0	81.7	4.6	5.2	1.4	2.9	3.2	0.8	0.2
3 to 6	100.0	82.0	0.1	3.6	1.3	5.1	6.2	1.6	–
7 to 13	100.0	81.5	6.8	6.0	1.5	1.8	1.6	0.4	0.4
With mother in labor force	100.0	64.6	9.4	8.8	2.7	5.6	6.9	1.6	0.4
3 to 6	100.0	59.2	0.4	6.9	2.9	11.5	15.2	3.8	–
7 to 13	100.0	66.9	13.2	9.7	2.6	3.0	3.3	0.7	0.6
With mother employed	100.0	62.0	10.1	9.5	2.9	5.9	7.4	1.8	0.5
3 to 6	100.0	55.1	0.4	7.6	3.2	12.5	16.9	4.2	–
7 to 13	100.0	64.8	14.0	10.3	2.8	3.2	3.5	0.8	0.6
With mother employed full time	100.0	50.9	13.1	12.5	3.6	7.5	9.3	2.4	0.6
3 to 6	100.0	42.6	0.7	9.2	4.1	15.6	21.6	6.1	–
7 to 13	100.0	54.2	17.9	13.8	3.4	4.3	4.5	1.0	0.8
With mother not in labor force	100.0	95.7	0.7	2.1	0.3	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.1
3 to 6	100.0	96.9	–	1.3	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.1	0.1
7 to 13	100.0	95.0	1.1	2.5	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1

[1] Data for children 3 to 6 years old obtained from February 1975 Current Population Survey; data for children 7 to 13 years old obtained from October 1974 Current Population Survey.

[2] Includes a small number of children with no mother present, not shown separately.

Table 26
Birth rates and fertility rates by race, selected years, 1920-76

Year	Birth rate[1]			Fertility rate[2]		
	Total	White	Black and other races	Total	White	Black and other races
1920	27.7	26.9	35.0	117.9	115.4	137.5
1925	25.1	24.1	34.2	106.6	103.3	134.0
1930	21.3	20.6	27.5	89.2	87.1	105.9
1935	18.7	17.9	25.8	77.2	74.5	98.4
1940	19.4	18.6	26.7	72.9	77.1	102.4
1945	20.4	19.7	26.5	85.9	83.4	106.0
1950	24.1	23.0	33.3	106.2	102.3	137.3
1955	25.0	23.8	34.7	118.5	113.8	155.3
1957	25.3	24.0	35.3	122.9	117.7	163.0
1960	23.7	22.7	32.1	118.0	113.2	153.6
1965	19.4	18.3	27.6	96.6	91.4	133.9
1970	18.4	17.4	25.1	87.9	84.1	113.0
1971	17.2	16.2	24.7	81.8	77.5	109.5
1972	15.6	14.6	22.9	73.4	69.2	100.3
1973	14.9	13.9	21.9	69.2	65.3	94.3
1974	14.9	14.0	21.4	68.4	64.7	91.0
1975	14.8	13.8	21.2	66.7	63.0	89.3
1976[p]	14.7	[3]	[3]	65.6	[3]	[3]

p = provisional.
[1]Births per 1,000 population.
[2]Births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years.
[3]Not available.

Table 27
Families by type, selected years, 1940-76

(Numbers in thousands)

Year[1]	All families	Husband-wife families[2]	Other families		
			Headed by men[2]	Headed by women	
				Total	As percent of all families
1940	32,166	26,971	1,579	3,616	11.2
1947	35,794	31,211	1,186	3,397	9.5
1950	39,303	34,440	1,184	3,679	9.4
1955	41,951	36,378	1,339	4,234	10.1
1960	45,062	39,293	1,275	4,494	10.0
1965	47,836	41,649	1,181	5,006	10.5
1970	51,227	44,415	1,239	5,573	10.9
1971	51,947	44,735	1,262	5,950	11.5
1972	53,280	45,743	1,353	6,184	11.6
1973	54,361	46,308	1,453	6,600	12.1
1974	55,041	46,810	1,433	6,798	12.4
1975[3]	55,699	47,069	1,400	7,230	13.0
1976	56,244	47,318	1,444	7,482	13.3

[1]Data were collected in April of 1940, 1947, and 1955 and March of all other years.
[2]Includes men in Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post.
[3]Data for 1975 have been revised since their initial publication.

Table 28
Women who head families by age and marital status, March 1960, March 1970, and March 1976

Age and marital status	Number (thousands)			Percent distribution		
	1960	1970	1976	1960	1970	1976
AGE						
Total, 16 years and over	4,494	5,573	7,482	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25	180	437	738	4.0	7.8	9.9
25 to 34	620	919	1,769	13.8	16.5	23.6
35 to 44	921	1,075	1,599	20.5	19.3	21.4
45 to 54	948	1,115	1,280	21.1	20.0	17.1
55 to 64	782	917	970	17.4	16.4	13.0
65 and over	1,043	1,115	1,125	23.2	20.0	15.0
Median age	50.5	48.2	42.7	—	—	—
MARITAL STATUS						
Total, women who head families	4,494	5,573	7,482	100.0	100.0	100.0
Never married	521	610	975	11.6	10.9	13.0
Married, husband absent	980	1,324	1,771	21.8	23.7	23.7
Divorced	750	1,258	2,359	16.7	22.5	31.5
Widowed	2,243	2,389	2,376	49.9	42.8	31.8

Table 29
Women who head families by employment and marital status, March 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Labor force status	All women who head families	Never married	Married, husband absent	Divorced	Widowed
Population	7,482	975	1,771	2,359	2,376
Labor force	4,169	563	1,000	1,760	846
Labor force participation rate[1]	55.7	55.7	56.5	74.6	35.6
Employed	3,759	489	864	1,629	777
Unemployed	410	74	136	131	69
Unemployment rate[2]	9.8	13.1	13.6	7.4	8.2

[1]Labor force as percent of population
[2]Unemployed as percent of labor force

Part III.

Education, Income, and Earnings

Working women, on average, had more formal schooling than working men in the 1950's, but since then, their level of education has not risen as rapidly as men's. Still, the proportion of women with 4 years or more of college has almost doubled since 1952. Generally, the more education women have, the more likely they are to be in the labor force and the less likely to be unemployed. The more education they bring to their jobs, the higher their earnings.

Nevertheless, the great majority of working women have not yet attained parity with working men in earned income. Median usual weekly earnings of women on full-time jobs in 1975 were about 60 percent of those of men. For year-round full-time workers, women's median annual earnings were only 59 percent of men's, a ratio that ranged from 39 percent for sales workers to 66 percent for professional-technical workers.

Despite their comparatively low earnings, women make a substantial contribution to their family's economic well-being, and the family with more than one earner has become a prominent feature of American life. In nearly half of all husband-wife families in 1976, both the husband and wife were earners. Wives' earnings accounted for, on average, 26 percent of the total family income in 1975, and as much as 39 percent in families where wives worked year round, full time.

Table 30
Women and men in the labor force by years of school completed, selected years, 1952-76

Date and sex	Percent distribution							Median years of school completed
	Total	Years of school completed						
		Less than 5 years (including none)	5 to 8 years	High school		College		
				1 to 3 years	4 years	1 to 3 years	4 years or more	
October 1952								
Women	100.0	5.5	25.6	18.3	34.0	8.9	7.7	12.0
Men	100.0	8.3	32.9	18.9	23.7	8.1	8.1	10.4
March 1962								
Women	100.0	3.0	18.8	18.8	38.7	11.2	9.5	12.2
Men	100.0	5.4	24.2	19.6	28.7	10.4	11.7	12.0
March 1972								
Women	100.0	1.4	10.2	19.2	44.7	13.2	11.4	12.4
Men	100.0	2.5	14.5	19.2	35.0	13.8	15.0	12.4
March 1976								
Women	100.0	1.0	7.4	17.1	44.6	15.9	14.0	12.6
Men	100.0	1.9	10.3	17.1	36.5	16.0	18.2	12.6

NOTE: Persons 18 years and over for 1952 and 1962; 16 years and over for 1972 and 1976.

Table 31
Labor force status of women by years of school completed, March 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Item	8 years or less (including none)	High school		College	
		1 to 3 years	4 years	1 to 3 years	4 years or more
Total, 16 years and over	13,464	16,359	31,878	11,023	8,110
In labor force	3,169	6,463	16,852	6,026	5,307
Labor force participation rate[1]	23.5	39.5	52.9	54.7	65.4
Unemployed	332	883	1,420	389	184
Unemployment rate[2]	10.5	13.7	8.4	6.5	3.5

[1] Percent of population in labor force.
[2] Percent of labor force unemployed.

Table 32
Occupational distribution of employed women by years of school completed, March 1976

Occupation group	Less than 4 years of high school	4 years of high school only	1 to 3 years of college	4 years of more of college
Total employed (thousands)	8,417	15,432	5,637	5,123
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional-technical	1.8	6.0	18.7	67.8
Managerial-administrative, except farm	3.2	5.9	7.0	7.9
Sales	7.0	7.2	7.6	2.8
Clerical	15.3	47.9	46.7	16.0
Craft	2.0	1.6	1.1	0.4
Operatives, except transport	25.4	10.2	2.9	1.2
Transport equipment operatives	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.1
Nonfarm laborers	2.3	0.9	0.6	0.2
Service, except private household	30.9	17.2	13.4	3.3
Private household	9.4	1.6	1.0	0.2
Farm	1.7	0.8	0.5	0.3

Table 33
Women and men 25 years and over in the labor force by age and years of school completed, March 1976

Sex and years of school completed	Total, 25 years and over	25 to 34 years	35 to 44 years	45 to 54 years	55 years and over
WOMEN					
Total in labor force:					
Number (thousands)	27,896	9,016	6,806	6,617	5,457
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Elementary school:					
8 years or less	10.5	3.8	7.3	12.8	22.8
High school:					
1 to 3 years	14.4	10.5	16.6	15.7	16.8
4 years	44.6	43.9	47.5	47.7	38.5
College:					
1 to 3 years	14.5	18.4	14.0	12.3	11.1
4 years or more	15.9	23.3	14.7	11.3	10.8
MEN					
Total in labor force:					
Number (thousands)	43,517	14,121	10,393	10,231	8,771
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Elementary school:					
8 years or less	14.3	5.1	12.2	18.1	27.1
High school:					
1 to 3 years	13.8	10.1	14.0	16.4	16.5
4 years	35.4	37.6	37.0	35.1	30.4
College:					
1 to 3 years	15.3	20.1	14.7	12.3	11.6
4 years or more	21.2	27.1	22.2	18.0	14.3

Table 34
Sources of income of women 14 years and over, 1975

Type of Income	Number of women (thousands)
Total	60,807
Wage or salary income	41,489
Nonfarm self-employment income	2,024
Farm self-employment income	361
Property income	14,665
Social security and railroad retirement income	14,506
Other retirement income	2,763
Supplemental security income	2,133
Public assistance or welfare income	3,193
Veterans' and unemployment benefits and workers' compensation	4,587
Other income	3,129

NOTE: Because some women receive income from more than one source, the sum of the individual components is greater than the total.

Table 35
Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by sex, 1967-76

Year	Usual weekly earnings				Women's earnings as percent of men's
	In current dollars		In 1967 dollars		
	Women	Men	Women	Men	
May of:					
1967	$ 78	$125	$78	$125	62
1969	86	142	79	130	61
1970	94	151	81	131	62
1971	100	162	83	134	62
1972	106	168	85	135	63
1973	116	188	88	143	62
1974	124	204	85	140	61
1975	137	221	86	138	62
1976	145	234	86	138	62

Table 36
Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by sex and occupation and industry group, May 1976

Occupation and industry group	Usual weekly earnings		Women's earnings as percent of men's
	Women	Men	
OCCUPATION			
Professional-technical	$218	$299	73
Managerial-administrative, except farm	187	320	58
Sales	111	244	45
Clerical	147	228	64
Craft	149	243	61
Operatives, except transport	121	202	60
Transport equipment operatives	(1)	216	—
Nonfarm laborers	121	166	73
Service	109	170	64
Farm	107	122	88
INDUSTRY			
Agriculture	$113	$129	88
Construction	167	244	68
Mining	(1)	280	—
Manufacturing	137	231	59
Durable goods	148	235	63
Nondurable goods	127	222	57
Transportation and public utilities	190	270	70
Wholesale trade	148	240	62
Retail trade	113	188	60
Finance, insurance, and real estate	144	270	53
Private household	66	(1)	—
Miscellaneous services	160	224	71
Public administration	173	269	64

(1) Median not shown where base is less than 75,000

Table 37
Median annual earnings of year-round full-time workers 14 years and over by sex, 1955-75

Year	Annual earnings		Women's earnings as percent of men's
	Women	Men	
1955	$2,719	$ 4,252	63.9
1956	2,827	4,466	63.3
1957	3,008	4,713	63.8
1958	3,102	4,927	63.0
1959	3,193	5,209	61.3
1960	3,293	5,417	60.8
1961	3,351	5,644	59.4
1962	3,446	5,794	59.5
1963	3,561	5,978	59.6
1964	3,690	6,195	59.6
1965	3,823	6,375	60.0
1966	3,973	6,848	58.0
1967	4,150	7,182	57.8
1968	4,457	7,664	58.2
1969	4,977	8,227	60.5
1970	5,323	8,966	59.4
1971	5,593	9,399	59.5
1972	5,903	10,202	57.9
1973	6,335	11,186	56.6
1974	6,970	11,889	58.6
1975	7,504	12,758	58.8

NOTE: Data for 1955 to 1966 are for wage and salary workers only and exclude self-employed persons.

Table 38
Median annual earnings of women 14 years and over by weeks worked, 1975

Work experience	Annual earnings	Women's earnings as percent of men's
Total who worked at any time in 1975	$3,953	40.9
Worked at full-time jobs	5,853	53.6
50 to 52 weeks	7,504	58.8
27 to 49 weeks	4,551	59.4
26 weeks or less	1,291	62.3
Worked at part-time jobs	1,274	105.6
50 to 52 weeks	2,799	114.2
27 to 49 weeks	1,867	93.1
26 weeks or less	628	94.9

Table 39
Median annual earnings of year-round full-time workers in 1975, by selected characteristics, March 1976

Item	Number employed year round, full time (thousands)		Annual earnings		Women's earnings as percent of men's
	Women	Men	Women	Men	
Total, 16 years and over	17,451	37,255	$ 7,504	$12,631	59.4
Never married	3,516	4,657	7,522	8,849	85.0
Married, spouse present	9,972	30,023	7,483	13,334	56.1
Married, spouse absent	861	808	6,733	10,468	64.3
Divorced	1,933	1,404	7,922	12,321	64.3
Widowed	1,168	363	7,397	11,577	63.9
White	15,097	33,939	7,514	12,884	58.3
Black	2,036	2,768	7,237	9,710	74.5
Spanish origin	629	1,511	6,431	9,413	68.3
Years of school completed:					
Less than 12	3,194	8,871	5,682	10,040	56.6
12 only	8,392	14,139	7,103	12,260	57.9
16 or more	3,041	8,167	10,519	17,129	61.4
Occupation:					
Professional and technical	3,321	6,417	10,524	15,968	65.9
Managers and administrators, except farm	1,424	6,478	9,125	15,903	57.4
Clerical	7,166	2,453	7,562	12,136	62.3
Operatives, except transport	1,940	3,796	6,241	10,953	57.0
Service, except private household	2,275	2,637	5,414	9,491	57.0
In metropolitan areas[1]:					
Central cities	5,841	10,088	7,845	12,435	63.1
White	4,435	8,202	7,880	12,886	61.2
Black	1,234	1,602	7,584	10,640	71.3
Spanish origin	353	760	6,116	9,395	65.1
Suburbs	6,977	15,744	8,019	14,199	56.5
White	6,409	14,979	8,002	14,357	55.7
Black	452	538	7,989	10,224	78.1
Spanish origin	216	506	7,051	10,052	70.1

[1] Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Table 40
Husband-wife families by number of earners and size of family, March 1976, and median family income in 1975

(Number of families in thousands)

Number of earners	Total	Size of family						Median family income[1]
		2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons	7 persons or more	
Total, husband-wife families	47,308	17,027	9,858	10,122	5,688	2,649	1,965	$14,900
With no earners	4,684	4,065	327	135	65	46	47	6,000
With one earner	15,664	5,701	3,226	3,619	1,895	787	436	12,700
Husband only	13,962	4,774	2,786	3,465	1,804	732	401	13,000
Wife only	1,246	928	141	85	56	25	12	9,000
Other relative only	456	—	299	69	35	30	24	11,700
With two earners	19,749	7,261	4,940	4,222	2,062	758	506	16,400
Husband and wife only	16,683	7,261	3,776	3,403	1,498	500	247	16,100
Husband and other relative, only	2,714	—	1,018	711	516	233	234	17,900
Husband is nonearner	352	—	146	109	48	25	24	15,100
With three earners or more	7,211	—	1,365	2,146	1,666	1,058	976	22,100
Husband and wife earners	5,652	—	1,365	1,740	1,195	740	612	22,000
Husband an earner, wife nonearner	1,427	—	—	364	1,195	293	330	22,900
Husband is nonearner	131	—	—	42	31	24	34	16,100

[1] Income rounded to nearest $100.

Table 41

Earnings of married women, husband present, as percent of family income in 1975, by selected characteristics of husband-wife families, March 1976

Characteristic	Number of wives (thousands)	Median percent of family income accounted for by earnings of wife
Total, wives with earnings	23,709	26.3
Age of husband:		
Under 25 years	2,259	30.7
25 to 44 years	11,554	25.3
45 years and over	9,906	26.5
Wife worked 50 to 52 weeks full time	9,871	38.8
Family income:		
Under $10,000	841	59.5
$10,000 to $14,999	1,777	44.7
$15,000 to $19,999	2,466	39.2
$20,000 to $24,999	2,078	36.9
$25,000 and over	2,709	33.1
Median family income	$19,699	—
Wife worked 27 to 49 weeks full time	3,116	30.7
Wife worked 1 to 26 weeks full time or 1 to 52 weeks part time	10,722	11.8

Table 42

Earnings of women who head families as percent of family income in 1975, by selected characteristics, March 1976

Characteristic	Number of women (thousands)	Median percent of family income accounted for by earnings of head
Total, female family heads with earnings	4,338	66.0
Age of head:		
Under 25 years	432	76.8
25 to 44 years	2,356	75.3
45 years and over	1,550	50.2
Head worked 50 to 52 weeks full time	2,329	77.2
Family income:		
Under $5,000	162	85.2
$5,000 to $9,999	887	82.1
$10,000 to $14,999	698	76.5
$15,000 and over	581	56.2
Median family income	$12,351	—
Head worked 27 to 49 weeks full time	559	71.5
Head worked 1 to 26 weeks full time or 1 to 52 weeks part time	1,451	33.3

Table 43
Poverty status in 1975 of women and men by age and years of school completed, March 1976

Sex and years of school completed	Total, 16 years and over	16 and 17 years	18 to 21 years	22 to 34 years	35 to 44 years	45 to 54 years	55 to 64 years	65 years and over
WOMEN								
Total (thousands)	80,834	4,108	8,170	21,492	11,712	12,156	10,447	12,749
Total in poverty: Number (thousands)	10,060	641	1,227	2,384	1,248	1,029	1,229	2,303
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Elementary school: 8 years or less (includes none completed)	35.2	18.3	8.6	17.8	32.1	37.6	47.9	65.7
High school: 1 to 3 years	29.2	79.7	37.2	29.1	29.2	26.5	22.4	15.7
4 years	25.1	2.0	36.9	35.6	30.0	27.4	22.4	12.0
College: 1 year or more	10.6	–	17.2	17.4	8.7	8.4	7.2	6.6
MEN								
Total (thousands)	73,260	4,202	7,802	20,620	11,107	11,296	9,320	8,913
Total in poverty: Number (thousands)	5,951	597	836	1,335	712	679	781	1,013
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Elementary school: 8 years or less (includes none completed)	38.6	27.3	9.0	17.5	36.6	48.5	59.4	76.1
High school: 1 to 3 years	27.4	71.5	44.0	21.8	24.1	19.9	14.4	12.5
4 years	19.2	1.2	29.5	28.8	24.4	19.7	16.6	6.5
College: 1 year or more	14.8	–	17.5	31.8	14.9	11.9	9.6	4.8

Part IV.

Race and Spanish Origin

Nowadays white women are nearly as likely as black women to be in the labor force. In past decades, the labor force participation rate for black women was as much as 12 percentage points higher than that for white women. Over the past 10 years, the rate for black women has shown little change, while the rate for white women, particularly married women, has risen at a slow but steady pace. In 1976, the participation rate for black women, at 50 percent, was only 3 percentage points above the rate for white women. Recent data show that Hispanic women are less likely to be in the labor force than either black or white women.

Following are a few other highlights of the data in Part IV:

- The unemployment rate is highest for black women and lowest for white women, with that for Hispanic women usually closer to the rate for black than white women.

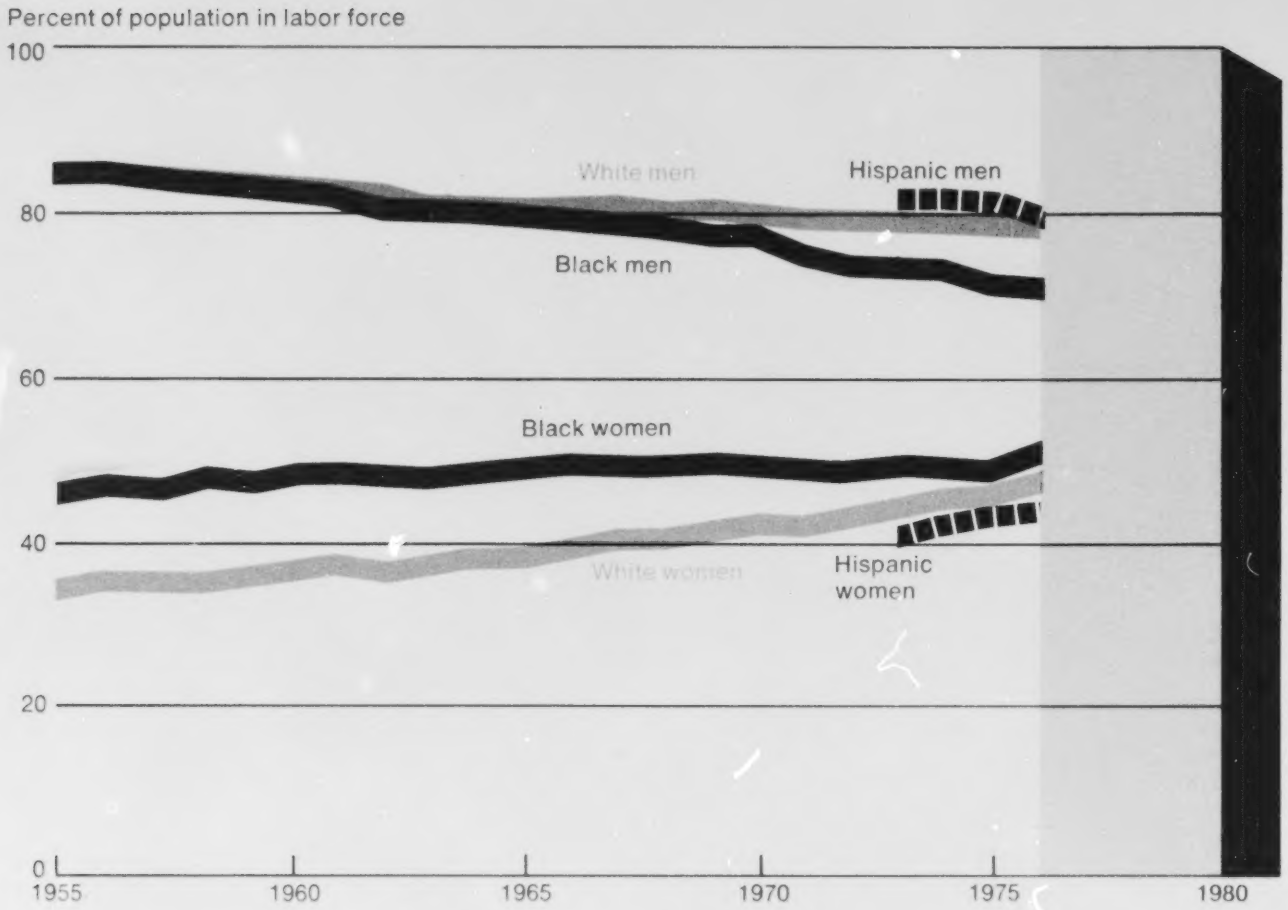
- For all three groups, labor force participation rates vary a great deal by age, marital and family status, and education. One of every 4 unemployed black women is the head of her family, compared with about 1 of every 10 white or Hispanic women.

- The proportions of black and Hispanic women in white-collar work lag far behind that of white women.

- Thirty-six percent of all black families are headed by women, compared with 21 percent of all Hispanic families and 11 percent of all white families. On average, families headed by black and Hispanic women are twice as likely to have incomes below the poverty level as families headed by white women.

Chart 5.

Labor force participation rates of women and men, annual averages, by race, 1955-76, and Spanish origin, 1973-76



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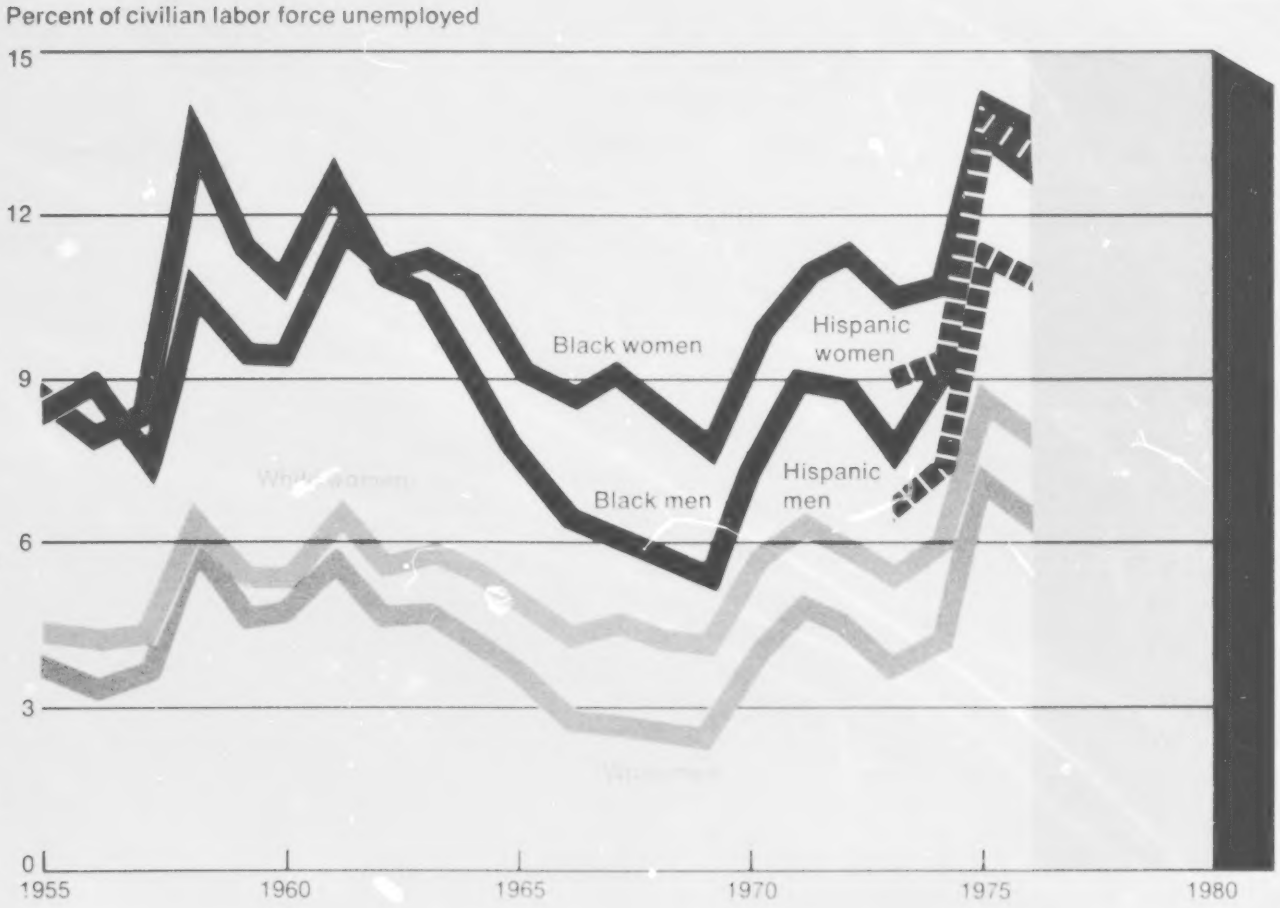

Chart 6.

Unemployment rates of women and men, annual averages, by race, 1955-76, and Spanish origin. 1973-76

Table 44
Labor force status of women and men by race, annual averages, 1955-76

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Women						Men					
	Population		Labor force participation rate[1]		Unemployment rate[2]		Population		Labor force participation rate[1]		Unemployment rate[2]	
	White	Black and other	White	Black and other	White	Black and other	White	Black and other	White	Black and other	White	Black and other
1955	51,803	5,772	34.5	46.1	4.3	8.4	47,077	5,034	85.4	85.0	3.7	8.8
1956	52,372	5,857	35.7	47.3	4.2	8.9	47,604	5,120	85.6	85.1	3.4	7.9
1957	52,997	5,952	35.7	47.2	4.3	7.3	48,122	5,194	84.8	84.3	3.6	8.3
1958	53,645	6,047	35.8	48.0	6.2	10.8	48,747	5,287	84.3	84.0	6.1	13.8
1959	54,393	6,144	36.0	47.7	5.3	9.4	49,410	5,384	83.8	83.4	4.6	11.5
1960	55,215	6,369	36.5	48.2	5.3	9.4	50,067	5,595	83.4	83.0	4.8	10.7
1961	55,994	6,489	36.9	48.3	6.5	11.8	50,610	5,677	83.0	82.2	5.7	12.8
1962	56,660	6,663	36.7	48.0	5.5	11.0	51,055	5,777	82.1	80.8	4.6	10.9
1963	57,672	6,823	37.2	48.1	5.8	11.2	52,033	5,888	81.5	80.2	4.7	10.5
1964	58,665	6,972	37.5	48.5	5.5	10.6	52,869	5,978	81.1	80.0	4.1	8.9
1965	59,601	7,130	38.1	48.6	5.0	9.2	53,683	6,101	80.8	79.6	3.6	7.4
1966	60,503	7,292	39.2	49.3	4.3	8.6	54,063	6,200	80.6	79.0	2.8	6.3
1967	61,492	7,477	40.1	49.5	4.6	9.1	54,608	6,298	80.7	78.5	2.7	6.0
1968	62,513	7,666	40.7	49.3	4.3	8.3	55,435	6,413	80.4	77.6	2.6	5.6
1969	63,564	7,873	41.8	49.8	4.2	7.8	56,349	6,549	80.2	76.9	2.5	5.3
1970	64,624	8,110	42.6	49.5	5.4	9.3	57,488	6,773	80.0	76.5	4.0	7.3
1971	65,697	8,345	42.6	49.2	6.3	10.8	58,762	6,973	79.6	74.9	4.9	9.1
1972	67,138	8,730	43.2	48.7	5.9	11.3	60,221	7,237	79.6	73.7	4.5	8.9
1973	68,090	9,102	44.1	49.1	5.3	10.5	61,213	7,532	79.5	73.8	3.7	7.6
1974	69,064	9,445	45.2	49.1	6.1	10.7	62,311	7,779	79.4	73.3	4.3	9.1
1975	70,115	9,750	45.9	49.2	8.6	14.0	63,386	8,017	78.7	71.5	7.2	13.7
1976	71,147	10,056	46.9	50.2	7.9	13.6	64,422	8,279	78.4	70.7	6.4	12.7

[1] Percent of population in labor force.
[2] Percent of labor force unemployed.

Table 45
Labor force status of persons of Spanish origin by sex, annual averages, 1973-76

Sex and year	Population (thousands)	Labor force participation rate[1]	Unemployment rate[2]	Sex and year	Population (thousands)	Labor force participation rate[1]	Unemployment rate[2]
WOMEN				**MEN**			
1973	3,159	40.9	9.0	1973	2,838	81.5	6.7
1974	3,364	42.3	9.4	1974	3,060	81.7	7.3
1975	3,557	43.1	13.6	1975	3,132	80.7	11.4
1976	3,650	44.0	12.9	1976	3,193	79.6	10.7

[1] Percent of population in labor force.
[2] Percent of labor force unemployed.

Table 46
Employment status of women and men by race and Spanish origin, March 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Item	White	Black	Spanish origin			
			Total	Mexican-American	Puerto Rican	Other
WOMEN						
Labor force, 16 years and over	32,799	4,377	1,516	876	171	468
Labor force participation rate[1]	46.3	50.5	42.9	43.9	30.5	48.1
Employed	30,222	3,804	1,325	753	148	425
Unemployed	2,577	573	190	123	24	43
Unemployment rate[2]	7.9	13.1	12.5	14.0	13.9	9.3
Not in labor force	38,059	4,298	2,015	1,119	390	506
MEN						
Labor force, 16 years and over	49,651	4,702	2,420	1,517	301	601
Labor force participation rate[1]	77.4	66.6	77.7	80.3	68.2	77.0
Employed	46,087	4,014	2,160	1,358	259	544
Unemployed	3,565	689	260	160	43	57
Unemployment rate[2]	7.2	14.6	10.7	10.5	14.2	9.5
Not in labor force	14,476	2,354	693	373	140	180

[1] Percent of population in labor force.
[2] Percent of labor force unemployed.

Table 47
Labor force status of women by race, Spanish origin, and marital and family status, March 1976

Marital and family status	White			Black			Spanish origin		
	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Labor force participation rate	Unemployment rate	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Labor force participation rate	Unemployment rate	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Labor force participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total, 16 years and over	32,799	46.3	7.9	4,377	50.5	13.1	1,516	42.9	12.5
Never married	7,754	61.2	10.2	1,128	46.5	22.3	386	50.5	13.0
Married, spouse present	19,285	44.1	6.9	1,903	56.7	9.3	832	41.6	13.2
16 to 34 years	7,906	50.0	9.5	840	64.1	13.7	417	43.9	16.3
35 years and over	11,379	40.8	5.1	1,063	52.0	5.8	415	39.6	9.6
With no own children under 18 years	9,030	43.4	6.0	691	50.0	8.1	244	42.1	(1)
With own children under 18 years	10,256	44.8	7.7	1,212	61.5	10.0	588	41.4	(1)
6 to 17 years	6,516	52.7	5.7	647	65.4	7.1	301	48.9	(1)
14 to 17 years	2,019	55.0	4.5	152	56.4	6.1	81	51.7	(1)
6 to 13 years	4,498	51.7	6.3	495	68.7	7.4	219	47.8	(1)
Under 6 years	3,739	35.5	11.0	564	57.5	13.2	287	35.8	(1)
Other marital status[2]	5,760	39.8	8.0	1,346	46.5	10.7	298	38.8	10.1

[1] Data not available.
[2] Includes widowed, divorced, and married, husband absent.

NOTE: Labor force participation rate equals percent of population in labor force. Unemployment rate equals percent of labor force unemployed.

Own children include never-married sons and daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Excluded are other related children such as grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins, and unrelated children.

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Table 48

Number of own children and median family income in 1975 by age of children, type of family, labor force status of mother, race, and Spanish origin, March 1976

Item	Husband-wife families			Families headed by women[1]		
	White	Black	Spanish origin	White	Black	Spanish origin
	Number (thousands), March 1976					
Total children under 18 years	45,972	4,570	3,670	5,885	3,427	921
Mother in labor force	19,789	2,613	1,429	3,579	1,657	347
Mother not in labor force	26,183	1,956	2,242	2,307	1,770	573
Children 14 to 17 years	11,504	1,144	675	1,610	838	209
Mother in labor force	5,971	667	298	1,065	417	94
Mother not in labor force	5,533	477	377	545	422	115
Children 6 to 13 years	20,834	2,104	1,673	2,956	1,708	450
Mother in labor force	9,285	1,227	680	1,854	857	177
Mother not in labor force	11,549	876	993	1,102	851	274
Children under 6 years	13,634	1,322	1,323	1,320	880	261
Mother in labor force	4,532	719	451	660	383	76
Mother not in labor force	9,102	603	872	660	497	185
	Median family income, 1975					
Total children under 18 years	$16,080	$11,873	$11,356	$5,967	$4,569	$4,730
Mother in labor force	17,588	14,461	13,686	7,778	5,752	6,049
Mother not in labor force	14,796	8,912	9,849	3,975	3,764	4,306
Children 14 to 17 years	$18,623	$13,131	$13,213	$7,873	$4,949	$5,677
Mother in labor force	19,779	15,781	16,073	9,478	6,426	6,904
Mother not in labor force	17,224	10,028	10,603	5,162	4,055	4,747
Children 6 to 13 years	$16,496	$11,858	$11,837	$6,164	$4,775	$4,875
Mother in labor force	17,804	14,570	13,991	7,786	5,815	6,214
Mother not in labor force	15,268	8,917	10,399	4,111	3,915	4,529
Children under 6 years	$13,678	$11,056	$ 9,957	$4,014	$3,914	$3,941
Mother in labor force	14,477	13,323	11,808	5,340	4,946	4,787
Mother not in labor force	13,290	8,630	8,910	3,154	3,542	3,523

[1] Widowed; divorced; married, husband absent; and never-married family heads.

NOTE: Children are defined as "own" children of the family head and include never-married sons and daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Excluded are other related children such as grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins, and unrelated children.

Table 49

Women and men in the labor force by years of school completed, race, and Spanish origin, March 1976

Sex and years of school completed	White	Black	Spanish origin			
			Total	Mexican-American	Puerto Rican	Other
WOMEN						
Total:						
Number (thousands)	32,799	4,377	1,516	876	171	468
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Elementary school:						
8 years or less	7.6	14.1	27.6	31.5	27.5	20.1
High school:						
1 to 3 years	16.3	23.8	18.6	21.9	18.1	12.6
4 years	45.4	39.8	37.0	33.6	42.1	41.5
College:						
1 to 3 years	16.3	12.6	11.6	9.9	8.2	16.0
4 years or more	14.3	9.7	5.2	3.0	4.1	9.8

Sex and years of school completed	White	Black	Spanish origin			
			Total	Mexican-American	Puerto Rican	Other
MEN						
Total:						
Number (thousands)	49,651	4,702	2,420	1,517	301	601
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Elementary school:						
8 years or less	11.2	23.3	33.9	39.5	33.8	20.0
High school:						
1 to 3 years	16.4	24.7	20.5	20.7	26.5	17.0
4 years	36.8	34.0	27.1	24.8	28.8	32.1
College:						
1 to 3 years	16.5	11.3	10.7	9.6	7.3	15.3
4 years or more	19.0	6.7	7.8	5.5	3.6	15.6

Table 50
Occupational distribution of employed women and men by race and Spanish origin, March 1976

Occupation group	Women						Men					
	White	Black	Spanish origin				White	Black	Spanish origin			
			Total	Mexican-American	Puerto Rican	Other			Total	Mexican-American	Puerto Rican	Other
Total employed: Number (thousands)	30,222	3,804	1,325	753	184	425	46,087	4,014	2,160	1,358	259	544
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White collar	66.2	42.4	46.5	44.7	42.8	51.5	43.8	21.0	23.8	18.1	22.1	38.6
Professional-technical	16.5	13.1	7.8	6.0	8.1	10.8	16.0	7.2	7.7	5.5	6.1	13.6
Managerial-administrative, except farm	6.1	2.6	3.1	3.2	0.5	3.8	15.1	4.4	6.7	5.6	5.9	9.9
Sales	7.2	2.3	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.7	6.5	1.9	3.0	2.1	3.8	4.8
Clerical	36.4	24.4	30.8	30.1	29.7	32.2	6.2	7.5	6.4	4.9	6.3	10.2
Blue collar	14.0	18.8	30.0	27.0	39.0	31.7	43.8	56.9	57.5	62.4	51.1	47.2
Craft	1.5	1.0	2.7	3.0	2.7	1.9	21.0	15.7	19.4	19.1	15.0	22.1
Operatives, including transport	11.4	16.6	25.8	22.3	34.5	28.9	16.4	26.7	26.5	29.0	27.6	19.5
Laborers, except farm	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.8	0.9	6.4	14.5	11.6	14.3	8.5	6.1
Service	18.8	38.4	22.1	26.3	18.1	16.2	8.1	18.4	13.1	10.9	24.0	13.6
Service, except private household	16.6	27.4	17.3	20.8	16.0	11.5	8.1	18.2	13.1	10.9	24.0	13.6
Private household	2.2	11.0	4.8	5.5	2.1	4.7	–	0.2	–	–	–	–
Farm	1.0	0.2	1.6	2.6	–	0.2	4.3	3.7	5.7	8.4	2.7	0.6
Farmers and farm managers	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	–	–	2.8	0.8	0.4	0.6		0.2
Farm laborers and supervisors	0.8	0.1	1.5	2.5	–	0.2	1.5	2.9	5.3	7.8	2.7	0.4

Table 51
Family status of unemployed women by race and Spanish origin, March 1976

Family status	White	Black	Spanish origin		
			Total	Mexican-American	Other[1]
	Number (thousands)				
Total, 16 years and over	2,577	573	189	123	68
In families, total	2,283	533	179	120	61
Head	254	144	21	12	9
Wife, husband present	1,305	170	109	71	38
Child of head	627	189	39	30	10
Other relative of head	95	31	10	7	3
Unrelated individuals	294	40	10	3	7
	Percent distribution				
Total, 16 years and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In families, total	88.6	93.0	94.7	97.6	(2)
Head	9.9	25.1	11.1	9.8	(2)
Wife, husband present	50.6	29.7	57.7	57.7	(2)
Child of head	24.3	33.0	20.6	24.4	(2)
Other relative of head	3.7	5.4	5.3	5.7	(2)
Unrelated individuals	11.4	7.0	5.3	2.4	(2)

[1] Includes Puerto Rican women.
[2] Percent not shown where base is less than 75,000.

Table 52
Work experience and median annual earnings of women by race and Spanish origin, 1975

Item	White	Black	Spanish origin			
			Total	Mexican-American	Puerto Rican	Other
Total[1] (thousands)	70,848	8,674	3,530	1,995	561	974
Worked during 1975: Number (thousands)	37,463	4,675	1,698	1,012	193	494
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time	66.3	71.9	73.8	71.5	73.1	78.7
50 to 52 weeks	41.0	43.7	37.5	32.2	42.5	46.4
27 to 49 weeks	12.1	12.9	16.0	16.3	14.5	15.8
1 to 26 weeks	13.2	15.3	20.4	23.0	16.1	16.6
Part time	33.7	28.1	26.3	28.5	26.9	21.3
50 to 52 weeks	11.9	10.7	7.8	8.8	8.8	5.3
27 to 49 weeks	8.7	6.0	5.9	6.0	7.3	5.3
1 to 26 weeks	13.1	11.4	12.5	13.6	10.9	10.7
With some unemployment in 1975: Number (thousands)	7,540	1,493	499	289	67	145
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(2)	100.0
Year-round workers with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	3.1	2.1	1.6	0.7	(2)	1.4
Part year workers with unemployment of:						
1 to 4 weeks	23.1	12.7	20.0	23.9	(2)	13.1
5 to 14 weeks	25.6	19.0	22.2	20.1	(2)	24.8
15 weeks or more	30.3	31.2	34.9	37.4	(2)	34.5
Did not work but looked for work	17.9	35.0	21.2	18.0	(2)	26.2
Spells of unemployment for part-year workers: Number (thousands)	5,962	938	385	234	46	105
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(2)	100.0
1 spell	72.1	68.0	71.4	70.8	(2)	70.5
2 spells	16.4	16.4	13.8	14.2	(2)	14.3
3 spells or more	11.5	15.6	15.1	15.0	(2)	15.2
Median annual earnings, 1975	$4,085	$3,949	$3,618	$3,060	$4,457	$4,522
Year-round, full-time workers	7,514	7,237	6,431	5,987	7,144	6,787

[1] The survey was conducted in March 1976 and counted women 16 years and over as of the survey date.

[2] Percent not shown where base is less than 75,000.

Table 53

Median annual earnings of women and men who worked year round, full time by race and Spanish origin, 1975

Sex and earnings	White	Black	Spanish origin			
			Total	Mexican-American	Puerto Rican	Other
WOMEN						
Worked year round, full time in 1975[1] (thousands)	15,371	2,043	636	326	82	229
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under $2,000[2]	4.5	4.2	4.6	5.8	2.5	3.5
$2,000 to $4,999	15.4	21.4	23.0	27.6	18.5	18.4
$5,000 to $9,999	54.6	53.2	58.0	55.2	64.2	60.5
$10,000 to $14,999	20.3	18.4	12.9	10.1	14.8	14.9
$15,000 to $24,999	4.7	2.8	1.6	0.9	–	2.6
$25,000 or more	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.3	–	–
Median annual earnings, 1975	$ 7,441	$7,223	$6,388	$5,945	$7,144	$ 6,758
MEN						
Worked year round, full time in 1975[1] (thousands)	33,975	2,775	1,511	907	201	404
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under $2,000[2]	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
$2,000 to $4,999	4.1	10.8	7.7	9.6	5.0	5.0
$5,000 to $9,999	23.3	40.0	46.3	45.8	57.2	41.6
$10,000 to $14,999	33.0	32.9	28.7	27.6	27.9	32.2
$15,000 to $24,999	28.8	13.5	13.4	13.6	7.5	16.1
$25,000 or more	8.6	0.9	2.3	1.9	1.0	4.0
Median annual earnings, 1975	$12,877	$9,098	$9,413	$9,247	$8,512	$10,197

[1] The survey was conducted in March 1976 and counted persons 16 years and over as of the survey date who worked 50 to 52 weeks in 1975, usually full time (35 hours or more per week).

[2] Includes workers with no earnings or a loss.

Table 54
Families by type, race, and Spanish origin, March 1976, and median family income in 1975

Type of family	Number of families (thousands)			Median family income		
	White	Black	Spanish origin	White	Black	Spanish origin
All families[1]	49,873	5,586	2,499	$14,268	$ 8,779	$ 9,551
Husband-wife families	43,311	3,352	1,896	15,125	11,526	10,950
Wife in paid labor force[2]	18,609	1,903	790	17,550	14,355	13,821
Wife not in paid labor force	24,702	1,449	1,107	13,042	8,543	9,191
Other families:						
Headed by women	5,380	2,004	522	7,651	4,898	4,785
Headed by men	1,182	230	82	13,793	8,955	10,415

[1] Families as of March 1976.

[2] Persons 14 years and over are classified in the paid labor force if they were employed as wage and salary workers or self-employed workers during the survey week (in March 1976) or were looking for work at the time and had last worked as wage and salary or self-employed workers.

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Part V.

Additional Characteristics

- Women have been on their current job a substantially shorter time, on average, than men. The largest differences are for persons age 45 to 64.

- Women are less likely than men to hold two or more jobs. However, as employment of women has grown, the number of women who are multiple jobholders and their proportion of all multiple jobholders has increased—in May 1976, 23 percent of all multiple jobholders were women, up from 16 percent in 1970. Their main reasons for "moonlighting" are similar to men's—to meet regular expenses or because they enjoy the work.

- Women are considerably more likely than men to be absent from work because of illness.

- When jobseeking, the most frequent methods used by women, as well as men, were applying directly to the employer, asking friends, and answering local newspaper ads.

Table 55
Length of time on current job of women and men, January 1973

(Percent distribution)

Length of time on job	Women	Men
Total	100.0	100.0
1 year or less	29.3	22.4
Over 1 to 2 years	14.1	10.5
Over 2 to 5 years	23.0	20.4
Over 5 to 10 years	15.7	16.8
Over 10 to 20 years	12.2	16.4
Over 20 years	5.7	13.7
Median number of years on current job	2.8 years	4.6 years

Table 56
Median number of years worked at current job by women and men by age, January 1973

Age group	Median number of years	
	Women	Men
Total, 16 years and over	2.8	4.6
16 to 19	0.6	0.6
20 to 24	1.2	1.2
25 to 34	2.2	3.2
35 to 44	3.6	6.7
45 to 54	5.9	11.5
55 to 64	8.8	14.5
65 and over	10.9	13.9

Table 57
Multiple jobholding rates of employed women and men and main reason for working at more than one job, May 1976

Item	Women	Men
Number of persons with more than one job (thousands)	911	3,037
Multiple jobholders as percent of total employed	2.6	5.8
MAIN REASON FOR WORKING AT MORE THAN ONE JOB		
All reasons: Percent	100.0	100.0
Meet regular expenses	28.7	30.4
Pay off debts	5.0	5.5
Save for the future	8.6	8.2
Get experience	6.3	6.7
Help friend or relative	8.3	3.9
Buy something special	8.3	9.5
Enjoy the work	19.1	20.0
Other reasons	15.6	15.9

Table 58
Percent of all wage and salary workers on unscheduled absence from work by sex and age, May 1976

Sex and age	Total absent			Absent part of the week			Absent the entire week		
	Total	Illness	Other	Total	Illness	Other	Total	Illness	Other
WOMEN									
Total, 16 years and over	8.6	5.1	3.4	6.0	3.4	2.6	2.5	1.7	0.8
16 to 19	7.9	4.1	3.8	6.3	3.5	2.9	1.4	0.7	0.7
20 to 24	8.3	5.0	3.3	6.4	4.0	2.4	1.9	1.0	0.9
25 to 34	9.7	5.6	4.1	6.4	3.7	2.7	3.3	1.8	1.4
35 to 44	8.0	5.0	3.0	6.1	3.5	2.7	1.9	1.5	0.3
45 to 54	8.2	4.9	3.3	5.7	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.0	0.6
55 to 64	7.9	5.0	2.9	5.1	2.8	2.3	2.8	2.2	0.6
65 and over	10.2	7.4	3.3	3.7	2.0	2.0	6.6	5.3	1.2
MEN									
Total, 16 years and over	5.2	3.3	1.9	3.3	1.8	1.5	1.9	1.5	0.4
16 to 19	6.6	3.0	3.7	5.6	2.2	3.3	1.1	0.7	0.4
20 to 24	5.7	3.2	2.5	4.3	2.2	2.1	1.5	1.0	0.5
25 to 34	4.8	3.0	1.8	3.4	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.1	0.3
35 to 44	4.4	2.8	1.6	2.6	1.5	1.2	1.7	1.3	0.4
45 to 54	5.2	3.5	1.7	3.0	1.7	1.2	2.2	1.8	0.4
55 to 64	6.0	4.5	1.5	2.8	1.6	1.1	3.2	2.9	0.3
65 and over	8.5	4.2	4.2	5.0	1.0	4.0	3.5	3.3	0.2

NOTE: Data exclude agricultural and private household workers and those who held more than one job.

Table 59
Methods used by women and men to look for work and method by which current job was obtained, January 1973

Method	Percent who used each method		Method used to get job		Method	Percent who used each method		Method used to get job	
	Women	Men	Women	Men		Women	Men	Women	Men
Total jobseekers (thousands)	4,688	5,749	4,688	5,749	School placement office	13.0	12.0	2.8	3.1
Percent	(1)	(1)	100.0	100.0	Civil Service test	15.2	15.4	2.8	1.6
					Asked teacher or professor	11.8	9.2	1.6	1.2
Applied directly to employer	64.4	67.3	34.6	35.1	Went to place where employers come to pick up people	0.7	2.0	0.2	0.1
Asked friends:					Placed ads in newspapers:				
About jobs where they work	47.2	53.8	10.7	13.8	Local	1.4	1.7	0.4	0.1
About jobs elsewhere	36.6	45.9	4.8	6.2	Nonlocal	0.2	0.7	—	(2)
Asked relatives:					Answered ads in professional or trade journals	2.6	6.7	0.3	0.5
About jobs where they work	25.1	31.0	5.1	6.9	Union hiring hall	1.1	9.9	0.1	2.6
About jobs elsewhere	23.9	30.1	1.7	2.7	Contacted local organization	5.7	5.5	0.9	0.7
Answered newspaper ads:					Placed ads in professional or trade journals	0.4	0.8	(2)	—
Local	47.5	44.6	14.5	10.3	Other	11.5	11.9	5.3	5.1
Nonlocal	8.6	14.2	1.1	1.4					
Private employment agency	22.4	19.9	7.9	3.8					
State employment service	29.2	37.1	5.2	5.0					

[1] Because some respondents indicated the use of more than one method, the sum of the components exceeds 100 percent.

[2] Less than 0.05 percent.

Part VI.

The Future

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has an ongoing program which constantly assesses and reassesses the projections of labor force participation in light of new developments. Recent data show that the number of years worked by U.S. women during their lifetimes has expanded enormously since the beginning of this century. Worklife expectancy of women at birth climbed from 6.3 years in 1900 to 22.9 years in 1970. The most recent projections indicate that between 1975 and 1990 nearly 12 million women will be added to the labor force. By 1990, over 48½ million women are projected to be in the labor force, somewhat more than 1 of every 2 in the population 16 years old and over. Most of the increase is expected to be among women in the prime working ages, 25 to 54. Labor force participation rates for these women, most of whom are married, average about 55 percent today and are projected to rise to 60 or 65 percent by 1990.

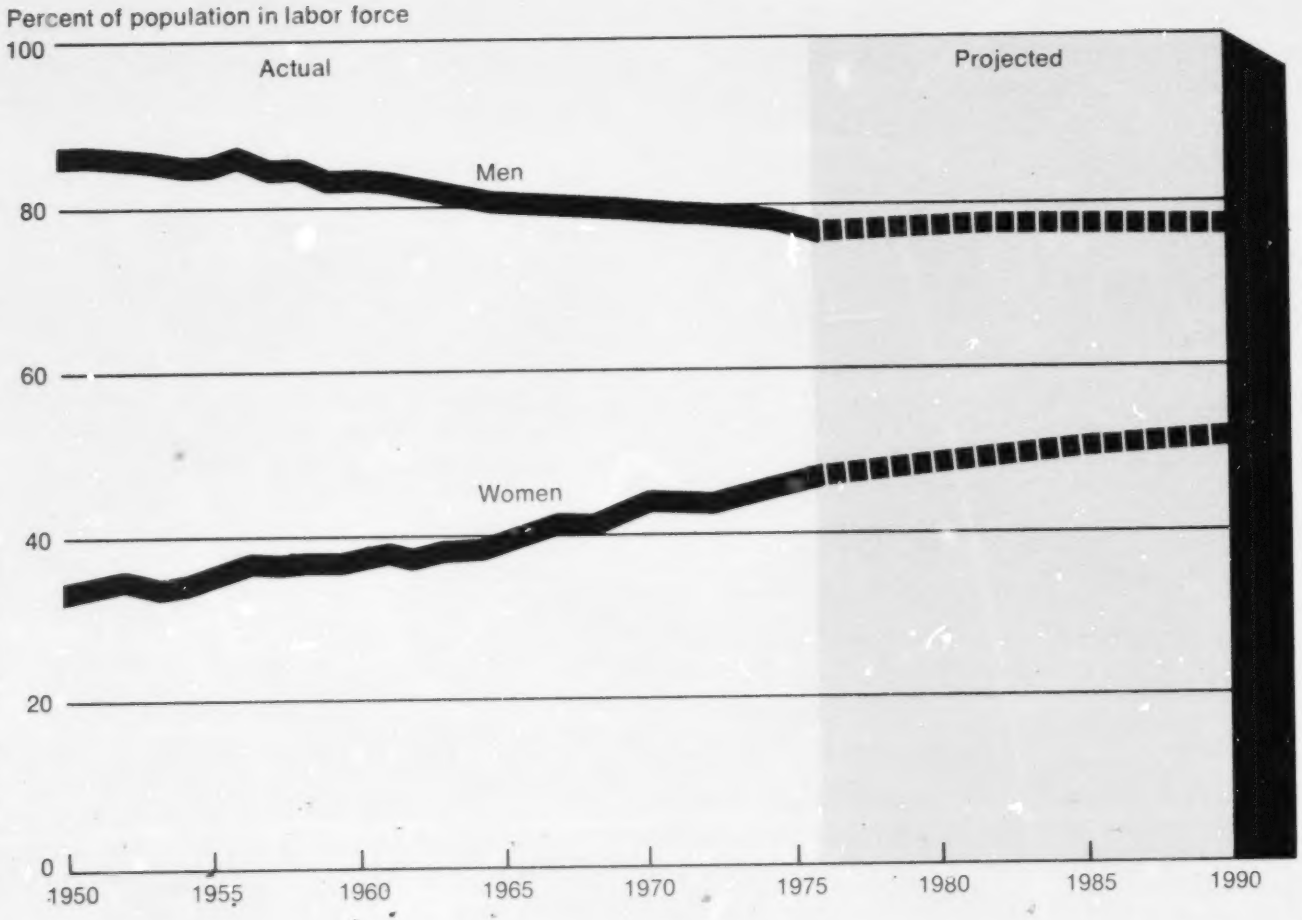

Chart 7.

Labor force participation rates of women and men, annual averages, 1950-76, and projected rates for 1980, 1985, and 1990

Table 60
Life and work expectancy at birth, selected years, 1900-70

(In years)

Item	1900[1]	1940[2]	1950[2]	1960[2]	1970
WOMEN					
Life expectancy	50.7	65.7	71.0	73.1	74.8
Work life	6.3	12.1	15.1	20.1	22.9
Outside labor force	44.1	53.6	55.9	53.0	51.9
MEN					
Life expectancy	48.2	61.2	65.5	66.8	67.1
Work life	32.1	38.1	41.5	41.1	40.1
Outside labor force	16.1	23.1	24.0	25.7	27.0
Women's worklife as percent of men's	19.6	31.6	36.3	48.6	57.1

[1]Data for 1900 are for white persons in those States which registered deaths.

[2]Figures adjusted to remove 14- and 15-year olds from the labor force to be consistent with 1970 (1900 is not comparable).

NOTE: The expectancies in this table reflect the average number of years an individual would have lived and worked if mortality and labor force participation rates had held constant throughout his or her lifetime at the level recorded in the year of the individual's birth.

Table 61
Population, labor force, and labor force participation rates of women and men by age, 1975 (actual), and 1980, 1985, and 1990 (projected)

(Numbers in thousands)

Sex and age	Population, July 1				Labor force, annual averages				Labor force participation rates,[1] annual averages			
	1975	Projected			1975	Projected			1975	Projected		
		1980	1985	1990		1980	1985	1990		1980	1985	1990
WOMEN												
Total, 16 years and over	79,921	86,111	90,781	94,588	36,998	41,673	45,699	48,619	46.3	48.4	50.3	51.4
16 to 19	8,225	8,160	7,018	6,612	4,038	4,226	3,762	3,649	49.1	51.8	53.6	55.2
20 to 24	9,486	10,327	10,115	8,852	6,069	7,066	7,329	6,659	64.0	68.4	72.5	75.2
25 to 34	15,514	18,108	19,967	20,582	8,456	10,394	12,210	13,077	54.5	57.4	61.2	63.5
35 to 44	11,618	13,084	15,903	18,525	6,493	7,633	9,723	11,678	55.9	58.3	61.1	63.0
45 to 54	12,206	11,577	11,437	12,885	6,665	6,609	6,761	7,795	54.6	57.1	59.1	60.3
55 to 64	10,349	11,035	11,238	10,671	4,244	4,628	4,740	4,514	41.0	41.9	42.2	42.3
65 and over	12,521	13,820	15,103	16,461	1,033	1,117	1,174	1,250	8.2	8.1	7.8	7.6
MEN												
Total, 16 years and over	71,468	77,089	81,119	84,379	55,615	60,000	62,903	65,220	77.8	77.8	77.5	77.3
16 to 19	8,049	8,037	6,870	6,485	4,760	4,905	4,181	3,976	59.1	61.0	60.9	61.3
20 to 24	8,769	9,584	3,986	8,129	7,398	8,069	7,795	6,671	84.4	84.2	83.0	82.1
25 to 34	14,566	17,196	18,997	19,590	13,854	16,369	18,021	18,545	95.1	95.2	94.9	94.7
35 to 44	10,745	12,147	14,917	17,471	10,288	11,600	14,192	16,571	95.7	95.5	95.1	94.8
45 to 54	11,330	10,841	10,721	12,085	10,426	9,892	9,709	10,901	92.0	91.2	90.6	90.2
55 to 64	9,221	9,791	10,000	9,592	6,982	7,275	7,162	6,704	75.7	74.3	71.6	69.9
65 and over	8,784	9,492	10,228	11,027	1,906	1,890	1,843	1,852	21.7	19.9	18.0	16.8

[1] Percent of population in labor force.

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